AUNT CHARLOTTE'S STORIES OF BIBLE HISTORY

JOSEPH INTERPRETING PHARAOH'S DREAM—Pharaoh is intently listening to the words of Joseph, who is interpreting the strange dream. Joseph is foretelling, by divine inspiration, the seven years of plenty and the seven years of famine.—(Gen. 41: 14-26.)

AUNT CHARLOTTE'S STORIES

OF

BIBLE HISTORY

FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

DESIGNED FOR THE 52 SUNDAYS IN THE YEAR

CONTAINING

OVER 100 STORIES FROM THE HOLY BOOK

EMBRACING INSTRUCTIVE HISTORICAL EVENTS FROM THE
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

BY CHARLOTTE M. YONGE

[THE NOTED AUTHOR AND MISSIONARIES' FRIEND]

EMBELLISHED WITH NEARLY 100 FINE ENGRAVINGS

Color Plates, Half-Tones, Woodcuts and Pen Drawings
Made Especially for This Volume

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INTRODUCTION.

AUNT CHARLOTTE was a maiden lady who had for many years been living in the East, teaching school. She had, also, been all her life a great Sunday-school worker, and had taught the Infant, or Primary Department in her home church since she was a very young lady. She almost "knew the Bible by heart," so everybody said, and the older people used to come to the Infant Class room to hear her explain it.

As for Bible stories, there was not one of them all that she did not know as well as she did her A-B-C's for she had told them over hundreds of times to her little scholars and friends.

A few years ago Aunt Charlotte concluded to visit her sister in a far Western State, and it was this visit which caused this book to be written. Her sister had three very pretty and interesting children—two girls and one boy; Clara was ten years old, Willie was eight, and "Little Anna," as everybody called her, was almost six when Aunt Charlotte arrived.

They had heard their mother tell of wonderful Aunt Charlotte, and so they longed to listen to some of her stories about everything, and especially about the Bible.

GOD'S WORD POINTS THE WAY.

They were not disappointed. Every day she told them about heroes and fairies, and the beautiful countries and strange people across the seas, and she also heard their lessons.

She said she would save all her Bible stories for Sunday, and to make up for not telling them any during the week, she would tell them three short stories every Sunday—one after breakfast, one after dinner, and one after supper—if they would listen right well and try to answer the questions she would ask them after each story. They all promised they would do the very best they could. And she planned her stories so she could take them all through the Bible in the fifty-two Sundays in the year—for she came to stay a whole year

with them—and have them learn about the great people and great things that happened in Bible times.

So that is the very way they began; and if you, my little readers, will do like Clara and Willie and little Anna did, and mother or father or some auntie or big sister will do like Aunt Charlotte did, when you get through this book you will know a great deal, and will say, as these children did at the end of the year, that Sundays with "Aunt Charlotte's Stories of Bible History" have been the very happiest days you have had.

Of course, you may begin and read it straight through, as many boys and girls do, in a week or two, if you prefer; but it is very nice to read it every Sunday, just as Aunt Charlotte told the stories.

WRITING A BOOK IN OLDEN TIMES.

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First Sunday in the New Year.

The Making of the World.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."—Genesis 1: 1.

THE first Sunday morning after Aunt Charlotte came, she and the children met in the sitting-room by the open grate. Aunt Charlotte had her Bible in her hand, and was seated in the great arm-chair before the pleasant fire. Little Anna, in her curls, stood at Aunt Charlotte's side; her brother Willie sat by her knee, and sister Clara was near by. They were ready to begin those Sunday Bible stories which Aunt Charlotte had promised to tell them.

"Now, my darlings," said Aunt Charlotte, "I hope you will listen carefully to all I say. I am going to tell you the story of how this world was made, and at the close I will ask you some questions to see how well you remember what I tell you. Did you know that Sunday is earth's birthday? That is so; for the Bible says on the first day of the week the creation began, and you know Sunday is the first day of the week.

"At first the world was all dark. It was soft matter, and had no shape to it. Then God said: 'Let there be light,' and there was light. Without light we could not live. The flowers and the trees and all the plants, and all the animals, and the people would die if it were not for the light. There were then upon the earth no trees or any living thing. But it would be almost as bad to have all day and no night. We must have the quiet, dark night for rest and stillness.

ANIMALS USED FOR SACRIFICE.

"The next thing that God did after making the light was to put air all around the earth. We look out through the air as far as our eye can see, and when everything seems to come together in solid blue we call it the sky, or firmament, though there is really nothing there except the air. Sometimes we see clouds floating about in the sky. These are made by the water rising up from the earth through the air. These clouds take on strange shapes; sometimes they are dark and full of rain; some-

times they are shining white or pink and golden-hued. This is God's means of drawing the water up from the sea and carrying it about through the air to let it fall in rain and to water the earth.

"After God had made the light and the air, the earth, which was at first a pulpy mass, grew hard on the outside. Some places were low, and into these the water from the clouds ran down and made rivers and lakes, while the dry hills rose up above them. These rivers and lakes carried their water around through all the low places until it ran down into the sea. At the same time when the rivers and the hills were formed God made fresh green plants and grass and trees to grow upon the earth and caused plants and weeds to grow even in the waters of the sea. The waters and the air and the earth began to be full of live things that swam or crept or flew about. There were fishes and birds and insects at first, and the land was full of beautiful trees and plants and flowers and running streams, lakes, rivers, and waterfalls dashing down the mountain sides. Then God began to make the larger animals, four-footed beasts—sheep, cows, horses, dogs, cats, elephants, lions, all that we use or admire; and now that He had got the earth ready for man to live in, He prepared to make the first man and woman. He would make them out of dust like those of the beasts, but as they were the last to be made, and all the others were to serve them, He concluded to make them in His own image, for He intended that they should think, speak, pray, and do many things that no other creature could do, for God expected to use mankind to develop and use this beautiful world which He had created for His glory and honor, and He meant that they

should be His own sons and daughters. So He planted a beautiful garden, with fruit trees and flowers and everything lovely for them to live in. He called it the garden of Eden.

"Now I will stop with this story here. I know you are anxious to hear about the making of this first man and woman, but I will save that for our next talk this afternoon.

"Now let me ask you some questions," said Aunt Charlotte, "to see how well you remember what I have told you. I will begin with little Anna, because she is the smallest," and Aunt Charlotte patted little Anna's curls.

QUESTIONS.

Who made the world? Was there any light at first? Who made the light? Could we live without the light? What did God make next? How do we get water on the earth? What did He make to live in the water, and on the earth, and in the air? What did He make next after the birds and fish and insects? After He made the four-footed beasts, what did He conclude to make then? What did He prepare for man to live in? What did He call it?

Making the First Man and Woman.

The children liked the morning reading so well that they teased Aunt Charlotte to read them more, but she said, "Not now; after noon I will;" and when the time came she opened to the second chapter of Genesis, and this is the beginning of what she read:

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Then she explained it to them by saying:

"In the Bible God tells us that He made the world and everything in it—land and water, and grass, flowers

and trees, insects, birds, and beasts, and last of all He made the first man and woman. The man was made by God out of the dust of the ground, and then God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and gave him a living soul. And the woman was made by God out of a rib from the man's side. They were called Adam and Eve, and they were to be the first father and mother of everyone who was to be born into the world.

"The good God gave them a beautiful home. It was a garden with a clear river of water flowing through it and all kinds of delicious fruit trees and beautiful flowers growing in it. Nothing could hurt or vex them there. They did not know what pain was, they were never tired, and all they had to do was to dress the garden and to keep it. They had no faults, and never did wrong; and God Himself came near to talk with them.

SYRIAN SHEEP.

"That was the way they lived, always good and always happy, whilst they obeyed what God had told them. In the midst of the garden grew two trees: one was the Tree of Life and the other was the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil. God told them that if they ate the fruit of this Tree of Knowledge they would die. We do not know what those trees were like, but some time or other I hope we shall see the Tree of Life, for it is growing in heaven, close by the river that flows by the throne of God; and when we see it and taste of it we shall

live forever, and be happier even than Adam and Eve were. We shall never be as happy as they were while we are living in this world; but if we will try to obey God, and trust in Christ and live holy lives, He will take us to heaven, and that will be still better than the Garden of Eden."

The children liked this story of man's creation, and asked Aunt Charlotte to ask them questions to see if they could remember. Now let my little readers see if they can answer them every one, as Willie and Anna and Clara did.

QUESTIONS.

What did God make? Whom did He make? What was the man made of? What was the woman made of? What did God breathe into them? What did He give them? Why were they better than the beasts? What was the man's name? What was the woman's name? Of whom were they the father and mother? Where did they live? What had they to do there? What grew there? What were the two chief trees that grew there? Which were they not to touch? Where is the Tree of Life now? When do we hope to see it? What is a still happier place than the Garden of Eden?

The Sea and the Tides.

"Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed."—Job xxxviii: 11.

"Aunt Charlotte, now will you read us some more and tell us about the wonderful things God did?" said Willie, as they gathered around their aunt after supper. Aunt Charlotte promised. After reading from the Bible here is what she said:

"What glorious and wonderful things God has made! Did you ever see the sea?" "Yes," said Willie, "one time—" but Aunt Charlotte put up her hand. "Yes,

there it is—a great vast space, all water, looking green near us, but blue further off, always heaving up and down. The waves rise and then ripple along, and burst with a white edge of bubbles of foam. And, if you live near the sea, you know how, at certain times in the day, one wave after another begins to break a little higher on the beach; eight waves seem to run up the same distance, then the ninth comes much further; then eight more come like that, then another. A great space that had been left dry gets covered up with water again, and where you were walking just now is quite deep water. What is this called? The tide. Well, what will the tide do in proper time? Will it come rolling in over the beach, sand, pebbles, and rocks, and wash us all away and drown us all, and cover up the land? No; presently each will turn. Each wave will be a little less high than the last, till it will have gone back again and left the beach uncovered as before. Why does the tide do this? It is because God so wonderfully contrived this earth and sea that the waters should rise and go back. He made the sand the bound of the sea, and said, 'Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed.' So, you know, we read in the Psalms sometimes—

THE RAM.

"'The sea is His, and He made it;
And His hands prepared the dry land.'

"Now I will ask you some—

QUESTIONS.

What curious thing does the sea do every day? What do you call the coming in and going back of the sea? Why does the tide always stop in its proper place? What did God make the bound of the sea? What did He say to it? What verse praises God for making the sea?

"I'll tell you, I like this day," said Willie. "Why, we have learned about the making of the world, and the making of the first man and woman, and about the tides of the sea." "Won't you give us three more lessons next Sunday?" said Clara. "Oh, do," said Anna. Aunt Charlotte promised she would.

STREET IN JERUSALEM.

Second Sunday.

How Sin Began.

"The serpent beguiled me and 'I did eat.'"—Genesis iii: 13.

THE children could hardly wait for Aunt Charlotte to get seated after breakfast the second Sunday morning in January. "I will tell you," she said, opening her Bible, "how sin began and the world grew wicked." "Good," said Willie, and they all settled down around her.

CAIN AND ABEL.

"Last Sunday you heard how God made the world and put a man and woman to live in it. The man was named Adam; the woman was named Eve. God gave them a beautiful garden to live in, full of trees and flowers; and they had no pain, no trouble, nothing to vex them. Only one thing God told them: there was one tree whose fruit they must not eat

They might eat the fruit of all the other trees, but not of that one. As long as they obeyed, all was well and happy with them; but if they ate it they would die. But a bad spirit came and took the shape of the serpent, and talked to Eve. He told her a wicked lie—he told her that to eat the fruit would make her wise, and would not make her die. And Eve listened, and did eat. And she gave Adam, and he also ate; and so they took the bad spirit for their master instead of the good God. Then God was angry with them, and put them out of the garden, and let them be weak and sickly, and die at last. It is a sad thing for them and for us. For if they had been good and obeyed God, and not the bad spirit, it would have been easy for us to be good, and we should not have had the devil tempting us to do wrong; we should have never known pain or sorrow. But God pitied Adam and Eve, and us too; and He promised them that the Seed—that is, the Son—of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and set them and their children free. Our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, set us free when He died on the cross and rose again; and now we belong to Him, and not to the bad spirit. Only we must try and ask Him to help us not to do what is wrong, as Eve did, or we shall not keep free from the power of the enemy."

The children were thoughtful, and Aunt Charlotte began with the—

QUESTIONS.

Who was the first man? Who was the first woman? Where did God put them? What was the one thing they might not do? What was to happen if they ate of that fruit? Who came and spoke to Eve? What shape did the bad spirit take? What did he tell Eve? What did she do? Whom did she make her master? What was done to punish her? What sad things did the bad spirit bring on her? Who came to set us free from the bad spirit?

The Flood and Noah's Ark.

"Well," said Willie, as they settled down around Aunt Charlotte, "I'm going to listen sharp this time. There were two questions I could not answer before." "So will I," said Anna; "but I missed only one."

"And behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth."—Genesis vi: 17.

read Aunt Charlotte, and then, looking up, said:

"The lesson this morning told the sad history of how Adam and Eve did the very thing that God forbade; so that He drove them out of the Garden of Eden, and sin and death came into the world.

HIDING FROM THE STORM.

"After that they had children. Some were good, but not so good as Adam and Eve had been at first; and some were bad. And as time went on the bad ones grew worse, and the good ones were tempted, and many of them grew wicked, too. And so all the world was getting wicked, and God saw nothing but evil when he looked down on it. And he said that He would destroy these wicked people, and wash away the evil from the earth by a great flood. But there was

one good man, whose name was Noah; and God said He would save him. He bade Noah build an ark. It was to be a great ship, all made of wood, and it took a great many years to build; and all that time people laughed at Noah for they would not believe that anything was going to happen. Noah made the ark and stored it with food.

NOAH MAKING A SACRIFICE AFTER THE FLOOD.

And God sent him a pair of all sorts of animals that were in the world, and he put them into pens in the Ark. Then Noah and his wife and his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, and their wives, went into the Ark, and God shut them in.

"Then it began to rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights without stopping, and the rivers came out of their banks, and the sea came up on the land, and the ground was covered up. Even the tops of the highest hills were hidden, and everybody and every creature was drowned—all but Noah and those that were with him.

There was the Ark all the time, floating quite safe on the water. The storm could not upset it nor the sea get into it, for God took care of it and all that was in it.

"The reason Noah was saved was because, first, he tried to be good, and not do like the bad people round him; and, next, because he believed what God said to him, and went on making the Ark, even when he saw no danger. If we wish God to save us, then we must take care that we do just what we are told—not what seems pleasant now, but what is really right."

"That's so; but it's hard to do, though," said Willie. "But wouldn't you have been afraid in that Ark?" said little Anna. "No," said Clara, "for Aunt Charlotte said God took care of it." "Right, Clara," said Aunt Charlotte, "now for the—

QUESTIONS.

Do you know why Adam and Eve were driven out of the happy garden? How did people go on after that? How did sin come into the world? What did God say He must do to the world? Why? Who was to be saved? What was Noah to make? What was the Ark like? What were put into it? Why were two of all creatures put into the Ark? What men and women were in it? What were the names of Noah's sons? What happened when Noah was in the Ark? How long did it rain? What was covered up? What became of all the people? Who were safe? Where was the Ark? Who took care of the Ark? Why was Noah saved?

"But, Auntie," said little Anna, "what became of the Ark?" "I'll tell you that after supper in our next lesson," said good Auntie, with a pat on Anna's curls.

The Going Down of the Flood.

"So Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth."—Genesis viii: 11.

"Now," said Aunt Charlotte, "for our third reading and talk," as they gathered around the fire after supper. The children were all eager to have her begin.

"It must have been a sad sight for Noah and his wife and their sons, as the rain went on and on, and the water grew deeper and deeper, and everybody and everything was drowned. Then came a time when nothing was to be seen but water. Wherever they looked all was sky and water; but it had done raining, the sky was blue again, the sun shone by day, the stars by night, and they must have been very glad. And still the water got lower, till the Ark did not float about, but stopped, resting on a peak of a mountain, a very high mountain, and a few bare tops of other hills began to peep out. By and by Noah opened the window of the Ark and let out a raven. He never saw the raven again, for a raven eats dead things, and there were so many dead bodies floating about that it got plenty of food, and never came back to the Ark that had saved it. He waited a week, and then he let out a dove. Now, doves like trees to sit and nestle in, and they eat grains and seeds; so the poor dove found no place to rest in, and flew back

MOUNTAIN GOAT OF PALESTINE.

to the Ark; and Noah took her back and kept her a week, then let her fly again. She flew away, but still she came back to the Ark, and this time she brought in her beak a sprig of olive branch.

"It was the first green thing that Noah had seen for a year. Noah's children have loved the olive leaf everywhere, and called it the sign of peace and good news ever since.

"For now Noah knew that the waters had gone down, and that trees must be able to put forth leaves again. Once more, after another week, he let out the dove, and she did not come back, for she had found a tree where she could make her home, and seeds to eat; and then Noah knew the sad time of the flood—a whole year—was over."

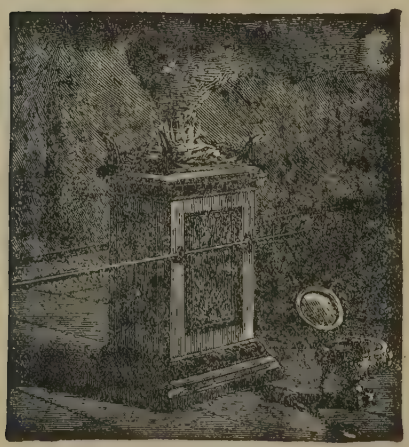
"Were there any little boys in that Ark?" said Willie; "if so, they must have got very tired waiting that long to go out and play. But ask the questions now, before I forget them."

QUESTIONS.

What was the Flood? What was the Ark? Who was in it? What had Noah with him in the Ark? What became of every one else? Why? Why was Noah saved? How long did the Flood last? What birds did Noah send out of the Ark? Which came back? Why did not the raven come back? What did the dove bring? What was Noah sure of then?

After the questions were all asked the children asked Aunt Charlotte if she would not tell them a story or two every day instead of waiting until Sunday. The good lady waited a minute, and then said: "You know, my darlings, I have come to spend a year with you, and I have planned to take you through the Bible in a year,

telling you stories of the most important things that you will like, and the three lessons every Sunday will do this. This is such a good way to 'keep the Sabbath holy,' as we are commanded to do. I will read you from the Bible in the week and from other books, and then we have our day lessons, you know." The children all agreed to let Aunt Charlotte tell them these pretty Bible stories on Sundays only.



ALTAR OF INCENSE.

Third Sunday.

The Rainbow.

"WHAT will you tell us about this morning, Aunt Charlotte?" said Clara. "The Rainbow," said the good lady with a smile, and then she opened her Bible and read:

"I do set my Bow in the Cloud," etc.—Genesis ix: 13.

"The sin that came into the world when Eve listened to the tempter had grown as men multiplied and made each other worse. The wicked people had been drowned in the Flood, and Noah, his sons, and their wives had alone been saved in the Ark. After a whole year of being shut up there watching the earth, first drowned and then coming out of the water, they had just come out on the fresh green earth, with all the animals saved with them, when God spoke to them.

"Then God made a promise to Noah. It was that no flood of water shall ever drown all the world again, but spring, summer, autumn, and winter, day and night, will go on to the end of the world, when it shall be

burnt up by fire, not drowned by water. That Noah, and all of us after him, might feel sure that God in His mercy will go on preserving us, and giving us days and nights, seed-time and harvest, He gave us something to look at as a sign of His promise. Do you know what He gave us? It was the rainbow. And this is how He made it. He so ordered the rays of light that when they shine upon drops of water in the air they cause beautiful colors, making part of a circle, so as to form a bow. So when the sun shines on a cloud, as it rains, the fair, bright rainbow is seen as a pledge to us of God's merciful care and love to us. There is a rainbow round about the throne of God in Heaven; and the lovely rainbows that we see when the sun shines out and the showers drift away are to put us in mind that we are safer under His care, in right of His promise to Noah and his three sons, from whom the whole earth was to be repeopled. We are the children of his son Japheth, and all that was then said to him belongs to us also. We should recollect it, and put our trust in Him, and be thankful when we see the beautiful rainbow that the work of the Almighty has made looking out of the midst of the dark watery cloud."

"Well, I never knew how a rainbow was made before," said Clara. "Isn't that lovely! I'll think of it every time I see one." "I don't understand yet," said Anna. "I don't either," said Willie. Then Aunt Charlotte explained it over again, and they all were able to answer the

QUESTIONS.

What beautiful sight do we sometimes see after a shower? What is a rainbow like? Who put the rainbow in the cloud? Who was the man to whom

God showed the rainbow? What promise did God make Noah? What had God just done to the wicked people? Whom had He saved? What did He say should always go on? What did God put in the sky to show that He will not send another Flood? What are we to think of when we see a rainbow? Who takes care of us?

Abraham, Who Trusted God.

"Going to tell us more about Noah and the Ark and rainbows and things?" said Willie. "No," said Aunt Charlotte, "I'm going to skip a long, long time. Now listen!" and she opened her Bible and read:

"In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."—Genesis xii: 3.

"When Noah's grandchildren and great-grandchildren came to be more and more, and the world was being filled with people again, they still were not all good, and the longer time went on, the worse they grew.

"At last God called to a very good man, whose name was Abraham, and told him that if he would come away from his home to a land God would show him, then God would bless him and lead him, and by and by give the land to his children, and that their children after them should be more in number than the grains of sand on the seashore or than the stars in the sky; and that in his seed —that meant by and by through a son of his—all the nations of the earth should be blessed.

"It was strange to hear all this about Abraham's children, for he was growing an old man, and he and his wife Sarah had no child at all. But he believed in God. He knew that God is Almighty, and can do whatever He will; so he only did just as God told him, and went away from his home, where God told him. He was obliged to

take all his cattle with him—quantities of cows and goats and sheep and camels and asses; and he had servants to drive them. When they came to a piece of grass and a spring of fresh water, there they would stop. They had no houses, only tents, which were great curtains woven of goats' hair and fastened up with poles, so that they could be set up or taken down and carried about. All his life Abraham lived in a tent instead of staying at home in a city and being at his ease.

"By and by he came to a beautiful country. There were high, cool hills rising up, and green valleys between, full of grass for the sheep and cattle; and the wide sea spread out far away toward the sunset, all blue and glorious. God told him to look at the land, for that was the place which his children should have for their own; but in the meantime Abraham had not one bit of it, and was a stranger there; and he had no child, either.

"But still he was quite sure that God spoke the truth; and that somehow, though he did not know how, it would come about that his children should have the land, and that in One all the nations of the earth should be blessed. That was faith."

"Why do you suppose God kept Abraham in the dark about what was going to happen?" said Clara. "Because he wanted him to trust His word and put faith in Him," said Aunt Charlotte. "Yes," said Willie, "sometimes they send warships out to sea with sealed orders, and the captain even don't know where he's going until he opens the letter." "That's it," said Aunt Charlotte, "and we must obey God, just as soldiers on the land and sea obey without asking the reason."

QUESTIONS.

What good man do you hear of to-day? What did God tell Abraham to do? What did God promise? Who were to have the land? Why was it strange to hear of his children? But did he believe it would come true? Why did he believe it? How did he show that he believed? Where did he go? What had he with him? What did he live in? What is a tent like? What sort of place did he come to? Who were to have this land? How many were his children to be? Did he believe this? What is believing called?

Abraham and Lot.

"Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee."—Genesis xiii: 8.

"Two men were traveling together. They were an uncle and his nephew. The uncle's name was Abraham, about whom I told you this morning; the nephew's was Lot. They had come from home because God had told Abraham to come away from his own home to the land that God would give his children. Abraham believed, and did as God bade him; and Lot, the son of his dead brother, went with him. They did not go alone. Each of them had great flocks of cows, and sheep, and camels, and asses, and goats, and numbers of servants to take care of them. They would fix their black tents, made of camels' hair, in any place where they saw a spring of water and good, green grass for their cattle; and there they would stay till all the grass was eaten up, and then take up their tents and move to another place.

"Just now they had got to a bare, stony place, where the sun shone hotly and there was not much green; but Abraham had built up an altar with the great stones and prayed there. Abraham and Lot loved each other, and were at peace; but when their servants drove out their

flocks to get food and water there were apt to be quarrels. If Abraham's men found a green grassy valley they would not let Lot's cattle into it; and if Lot's came to a well they would not let Abraham's flocks drink; and so on. They were always quarreling and making complaints to their masters. At last Abraham saw that they would make

PATRIARCHAL CARAVAN.

Lot quarrel with him. So he said it would be wiser to part; Lot should go one way and he another—anyway there should be no strife. And he even told Lot to choose which way he would go. So Lot looked, and saw to the east a pleasant green valley, with fields of corn and meadows, and a fine river running into a clear lake and

five fine towns on the bank. He liked it better than the bare, stony hills where Abraham was; and he never thought whether the people were good or not, but he took the first choice and went to live there. So Abraham gave up. He had the right to choose first, but he would not use it. He let his nephew choose. For he hated quarrels and knew they were wicked; and he knew how to stop them, because he would yield up the best. That is the way to make peace and please God."

"If I'd been Abraham I would not have done that. Why did he not take the best and let Lot scuffle for himself?" said Willie. "Yes, and run off all of Lot's old mean servants that fought his good men," said little Anna. "No," said Aunt Charlotte, "Abraham did right, as we shall see. Jesus says, 'blessed are the peace-makers,' and Abraham was a peace-maker. Now we will have the—

QUESTIONS.

Who had called Abraham? Who went with him? What was Lot to Abraham? Why did they go? What had God promised? What had they with them? Who quarreled? About what did the servants quarrel? Did Abraham and Lot quarrel? How did Abraham prevent a quarrel? Who was to choose first? Who might have chosen first? Why did not Abraham choose first? Ought you to be in haste to take the first choice? What should you try to hinder? And if you keep yourself back, and don't say "It's mine," and "I must," shall you not be likely to keep from quarrels?

TETRADRACHM OF ANTIOCH.

Fourth Sunday.

Lot's Wonderful Escape.

OPENING her Bible at the nineteenth chapter of Genesis, seventeenth verse, Aunt Charlotte read:

"Escape for thy life; look not behind thee," etc.

"As I told you last Sunday, Lot chose the beautiful valley, with steep hills shutting it in on all sides and a clear, swift river running through the midst and spreading into a lake. There were fine fields and rich grass, where sheep, cows, and goats could feed, and the shepherds shelter themselves under the palm trees; and on the bank of the river were five cities, with strong walls round them, and full of rich people, who bought and sold and made merry with the good things they possessed. Lot was the only man living there who was good, and he was grieved by the wicked ways of the men round him, who only laughed at him if he tried to tell them of better things. One evening two strangers came into the city where he lived, and he was the only person who would take them in and shelter them from the wicked people in the street.

"Those strangers told him the place was to be destroyed with all that were in it, because it was so wicked! Though the fields looked so quiet, the walls so

strong, and the sun had gone down as usual, all would be ruined in a few hours' time! Then the strangers took hold of him and his wife and daughters, and led them almost by force away from their home in the dawn of morning, bidding them escape for their lives to the mountain, and not look back. They were frightened, and begged not to have to go so far as the wild mountain. Might they not go to the little city near at hand? And their wish was granted. Just as the sun had risen they entered the little city for which they had begged; and as soon as they were safe the four towns, that had seemed so strong and firm, were all burning with fire and brimstone; and all the sinners who had mocked at warning were soon lying dead under God's awful anger! Four alone had been led out of the city by the strangers, but even of these only three came into the city of refuge. The wife did not heed the warning not to linger nor look back, the deadly storm overtook her, and she remained rooted to the spot—turned into a pillar of salt!

ABRAHAM TAKING ISAAC TO MT. MORIAH.

"The names of those cities were Sodom and Gomorrah. And now a strange, gloomy lake called the Dead Sea covers that valley with its salty waters, and the bare rocky hills, crusted with salt, show that the curse of God is on the place.

"Let us try to remember one thought from this terrible history. This world will one day be burnt up like those cities, and its looking safe and prosperous now does not make it safe. But God sends messengers to lead us out of it. If we attend to them and follow their advice, we shall through all our lives be getting out of danger and going on to a safe home in heaven; but if we care only for pleasant things here, it is like looking back, and our souls will perish with what they love. That is why our Saviour bade us 'Remember Lot's wife.' We should remember her when we are tempted to think it hard to give up anything pleasant, because we are told that it is wrong, and may put us in danger of destruction."

"Didn't Lot have any boys?" said Willie. "No," said Aunt Charlotte. "But he had two girls, didn't he?" said little Anna. "And—but they were bigger than me, 'cause I couldn't have runned away." "Yes, they were grown up girls," said Aunt Charlotte. "Willie, you may answer the first question."

QUESTIONS.

What was the name of the place I told you of to-day? What was the name of the man? What kind of place was Sodom? Who was the only good man there? Who came to Lot? What did he do for the strangers? What did the strangers tell Lot? Why was Lot to come out of Sodom? Why was Sodom to be destroyed? Where did Lot go? Who looked back? What became of her? What did God do to Sodom? What sort of place is it now? What will be burnt up some day? If we are not good, what will become of us? But what have we to teach us to be good? And how must we try to come out, like Lot?

Abraham's Son Isaac.

"Aunt Charlotte, didn't Abraham have any boys either?" said Willie. "You said Lot had only a pair of girls." "Yes," said Aunt Charlotte, "and I'll tell you about his son Isaac this afternoon." Then she read:

"Now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me."—Genesis xxii: 12.

"It was some time after this morning's talk that Isaac was born. Abraham was old, and he had begun to wonder if he should ever have a son. All the promises God had made were to be for Isaac's children after him; and Abraham loved God, and hoped all the more, and when little Isaac came Abraham was overjoyed and loved him dearly.

"But then God called Abraham to do a strange and terrible thing. He was to go and take his dear son Isaac to the top of a hill, and there to offer him up to God, as if he had been a calf or a lamb. Of course, in general, to do such a thing would be shockingly wicked; but Abraham knew that when God commanded a thing it must be right to do as he was bidden, however dreadful it was to him.

"So they set out together. Abraham took the knife and a vessel with fire in it, and Isaac carried the wood with which the sacrifice was to be burnt. On the way Isaac said, 'My father, behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' And Abraham answered, 'My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering.'

"Isaac soon knew he was to be the lamb, for his father put the wood in order and bound his limbs and

took the knife. And Isaac did not complain or struggle. He was ready, like his father, to do the will of God. But just as Abraham had the knife ready to slay his son, an angel called to him out of Heaven: 'Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me.'

"GOD WILL PROVIDE HIMSELF A LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING."

"Then Abraham unbound his son, and was as glad as if Isaac had really risen from the dead. And he saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns; so he took that, and offered it up instead of Isaac. Thus God really provided a lamb for a burnt offering.

"And He blessed Abraham more and more, and promised again that his children should have the land, and that in his Seed should all the nations of the earth be blessed. That Seed was our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, who, you know, was really given by His Heavenly Father to die, and then came back from the dead, that all people might be saved by Him."

"Wasn't that mean of Abraham to treat little Isaac that way?" said little Anna. "No," said Willie, "he wasn't scared; he knew his father wouldn't stick that

knife in him." "Yes," said Aunt Charlotte, "Abraham would have done so if God had not commanded him not to. Much as he loved his son, he loved God more, and we must all be willing to give up anything God wants us to; but you see God only did this to test Abraham's faith, and He would not let him do a wrong thing. God will not make us give up anything we ought to have."

"My first question!" said Willie; and this is what Aunt Charlotte asked him:

QUESTIONS.

What was the name of Abraham's son? What had God promised Abraham? What had Abraham done at God's command? What was he now to do? Whom did he obey? Where was he to go? Who went with him? What did Isaac ask? What did Abraham answer? Who seemed likely to be the lamb? What was Abraham just about to do? Who called him? What did the angel tell him? Why was God pleased with him? What blessing did God give him? Who was to be his Seed, in whom all families should be blessed?

Isaac's Wedding.

"And he brought her into his mother's tent, and took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her."—Genesis xxiv: 67.

"Auntie, what did little Isaac do when he became a man?" asked little Anna.

"Well," replied Aunt Charlotte, with a laugh, "one thing he did was to get married, but he did not choose his own wife, as men do now. I will tell you all about it. Abraham lived in the land of Canaan, and the people were all heathen. He did not want his son Isaac to marry one of the heathen girls, so he called his chief servant and gave him ten camels and several men for companions, and many presents, and told him to go to

the city of Nahor and get a wife for his son Isaac. After many days' journey the servant came to the walls of the city, and stopped on the outside by the well. At this well the girls and women of the city came to draw water with their pitchers, and the servant prayed to God that he would show him which one he might choose to be the wife of Isaac. By and by a beautiful young woman came up to draw water, and the servant asked her to let him drink from her pitcher. She allowed him to drink, and then said she would go and draw water for his camels. This she did, and the servant knew she was the woman to be Isaac's wife. After the camels had done drinking the man took a golden ear-ring and two golden bracelets and gave them to the beautiful young woman, and in answer to questions she told him of her parents, and told him there was plenty of straw for the camels and room for the men to stay at her father's house; and the servant was immediately welcomed into the house, and after taking the loads off his camels and feeding them, they set before the men many nice things to eat. But the servant said, 'I will not eat until I have told mine errand.' Then he told them whose servant he was, how rich his master was, and all about Isaac, Abraham's child. Then he told them how his master had sent him to their city to seek a wife for his son Isaac, and how he had asked God to show him which woman he should choose, and how he knew that Rebekah should be Isaac's wife. Then he asked them if they would let Rebekah go with him to be the wife of Isaac. 'And they called Rebekah and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go. And they sent away Rebekah, their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men.'

HAGAR AND ISHMAEL CAST FORTH.

"And Abraham sent her away, and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-Sheba."—Gen. XXI, 14.

JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BRETHREN.

They drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver.—Genesis XXXVII, 28.

"As they came near to where Abraham lived, Rebekah lifted up her eyes and saw Isaac coming to meet her; and when the servant had told Isaac all things that had been done, he took her into his mother's tent, and with his parents' permission made her his wife."

"That was a pretty story," said Clara, "and I think it teaches us that when God calls we should obey, as Rebekah did."

QUESTIONS.

Why did not Isaac take a wife from the land of Canaan? To what city did Abraham send his servant? How did the servant choose the woman for Isaac's wife? Tell about his visit to Rebekah's parents. Tell about the meeting of Rebekah and Isaac.

THE SPHINX, EGYPT

Fifth Sunday.

How Esau Lost His Birthright.

'GIVE ME SOME OF THAT RED STUFF IN THE DISH."

"DID Isaac have any boys when he grew up?" said Willie, as the children took their seat the next Sunday morning, after breakfast with Aunt Charlotte. "Yes, and didn't he have some little girls, too?" said little Anna. "Willie's always thinking about the boys, and you told us the Bible said his children should be many as sand on the seashore."

"He had only two," said Aunt Charlotte, patting Anna's cheek, "and they were both boys; but it was from them that the earth was to get its many people. The

name of one of the boys was Esau and the other was Jacob.

"Now let me read you from the Bible," and she turned to the twenty-seventh chapter of Genesis and read them down to the thirty-fourth verse, where it said:

"Bless me, even me also, O father."

Then, looking up, Aunt Charlotte said: "You see,

VALLEY OF SALT IN THE LAND OF EDOM, THE COUNTRY THAT ESAU AFTERWARD OBTAINED.

as Esau was the eldest he had the first right to the promises God had made Abraham. But Esau did not care enough about them; he did not seem to get anything by them, and he liked what he could get at once better than what was a long way off. He had no faith. One day he came home half dead with hunger, and saw his brother Jacob making soup over the fire. Esau said he would

give all these rights for a meal of the soup; for if he died of hunger, what good would his birthright do him? So for a mess of pottage he sold his right to the land of Canaan and to be the forefather of our Saviour.

"A time was to come when he would be sorry for what he had done. His father was old and blind, and thought he was going to die; so he bade Esau, whom he loved the best, bring home some meat and make a solemn feast—which was the way then of giving a blessing. Esau went, and in time brought home the meat to his father; but when he came in Isaac cried out and trembled. His brother Jacob had come in his stead, and Isaac had taken him for Esau and given to him the blessing that gave the right to the promised land and to all God's promises.

ISAAC BLESSING JACOB.

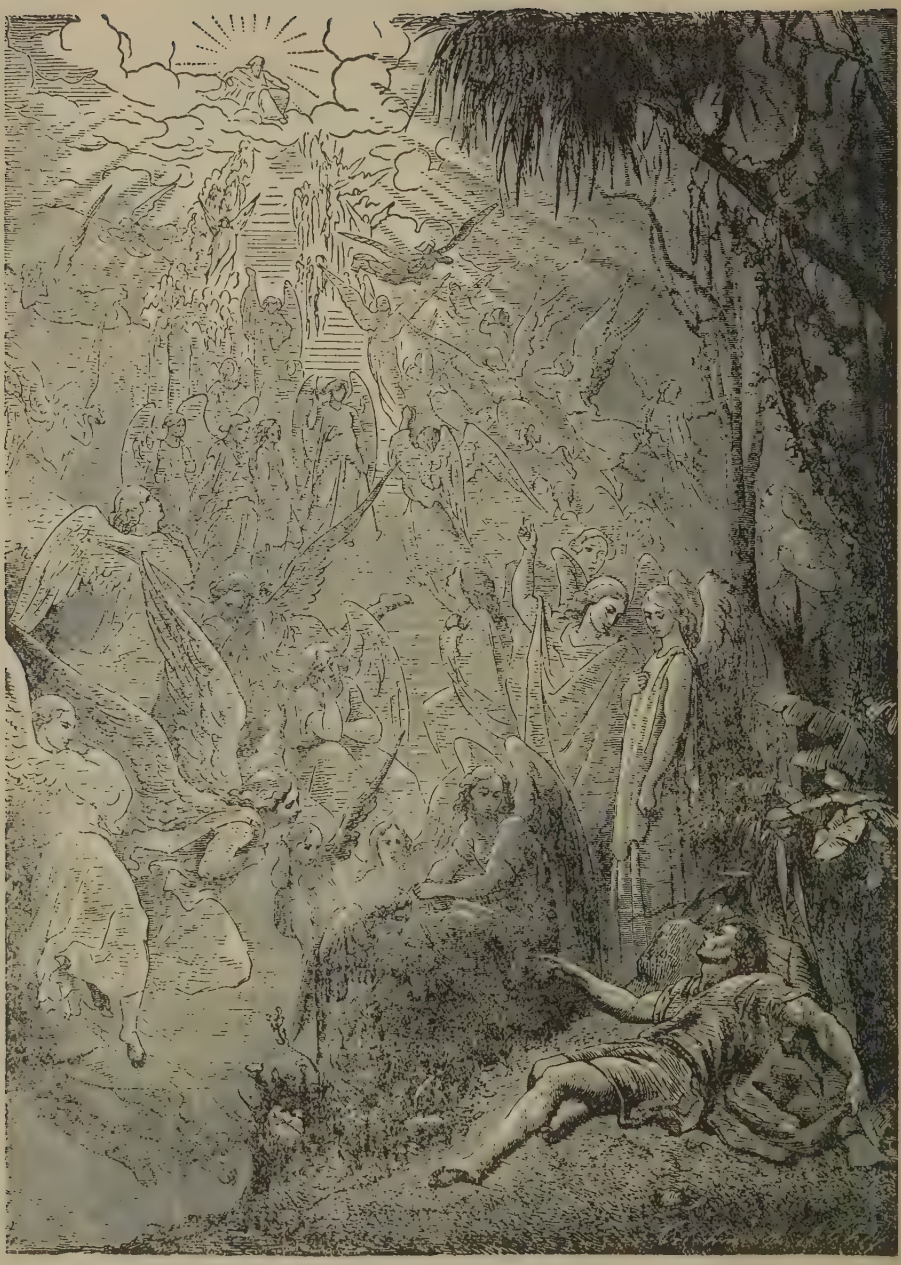
"Then Esau cried out with an exceeding bitter cry, and asked if his father had but one blessing. Isaac was grieved for him, and blest him with all his heart; but there was no changing back, no taking away what Jacob had won and Esau had lost.

"Esau did not know what he was doing when he took the pottage at once, rather than wait patiently for the glorious inheritance that was to come. This was the reason that he was allowed to be so cruelly disappointed. This is a warning to us. We have the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven promised to us; but we are tempted not to care about it when we want something here in this world, whether play or dress or anything that seems a great deal to us now. But if we trifle away our right to those great promises that God made us at our baptism, there will come a time of bitter grief, when it is too late And when we are dead it will be too late to change! Therefore, now while we are alive, we must have faith, and show it by taking care that the things we like here on earth do not make us lose the better things in heaven."

"I'm sorry for Esau," said little Anna. "Yes, but he was greedy," said Willie. "So are we when we had rather have a little pleasure in this world than a great deal in heaven," said Aunt Charlotte.

QUESTIONS.

What were the names of Isaac's two sons? Which son had the first right to the promise? But which cared about it most? What did Esau want? So what did he give up for the sake of the soup? Could he get it back again? What are you an heir of? How could we lose the inheritance of the kingdom of heaven? Shall we be able to change after we are dead? Then what must we care about most? Why could not Esau get his father's blessing? What did he like better than waiting for what he could not see? Can we see heaven? But when we get there, will it not be better than anything we can see here?



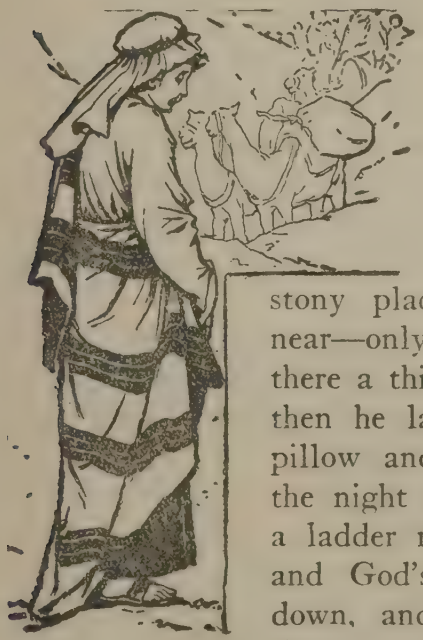
JACOB'S DREAM.

Jacob's Journey and Dream.

"Tell us more of Jacob and Esau," said Clara. Aunt Charlotte read:

"This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." —Genesis xxviii: 17.

"I told you this morning that Isaac, Abraham's son, had two sons, whose names were Esau and Jacob, and how Jacob had grieved Esau by gaining God's great promise, for which Esau did not care till he had lost it.



Now, Esau was so angry with Jacob that Jacob had to go out away from his father's home, all alone. But Jacob knew he was not alone, for God was with him. He went on till night came. Then he was in a dismal, stony place, with no house or shelter near—only big stones, and here and there a thistle. He said his prayers, and then he lay down with a stone for his pillow and the sky over him. But in the night he saw a wonder. There was a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, and God's angels were going up and down, and the Lord Himself stood at the top of the ladder. And He told Jacob that He was going to give his children all the land he saw—north, south, east and west; and that He would take care of him, and be with him, wherever he went, and in time bring him safe home.

"Jacob woke and found it was a dream, but he knew it was true, and that God had really spoken to him; and though he was glad, he was afraid, and he said: 'How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' And that he might always know the place, he put one of the great stones upright, and he took some of the sweet olive oil he had brought to eat on his journey, and poured it on the stone, as the only thing he could do to show honor to God. Then he made a solemn, holy vow, that if God would take care of him on his way, and give him food to eat and clothes to wear, he would make a gift to God all his life of the tenth part of all he had. Good people like to be like Jacob, and give God their tenth. And if we only had our eyes opened to see, like his, we should see God's angels coming up and down with blessings for us, for we go to the house of God and gate of heaven whenever we go to church. Let us recollect how awful Jacob felt it to be so near to God."

"I have dreams, too, sometimes," said little Anna, "and I see everything. Do you expect they are angels and ladders and things?" Aunt Charlotte patted her cheeks and began the

QUESTIONS.

Who was Isaac? Who was Jacob? Who was Esau? Why was Jacob obliged to go away? What was the promise? What kind of place had he to sleep in? What was his pillow? But what did he see? Who went up and down? Who stood at the top? What did God promise him? What did Jacob say of the place? How did he mark it? What did he pour on the stone? What vow did he make? What are our houses of God? Who come up and down to us? What do the angels bring us? How much did Jacob promise to give God? What does God do for us?

Jacob and Esau Meet Again.

"Aunt Charlotte, I know what became of Jacob," said Clara. "But don't tell," said Willie, shaking his hand at her; "you will spoil the story for me and Anna—let Aunt Charlotte tell."

"Well, then," said Aunt Charlotte, "it was a long journey that Jacob had had to take, but God took care of him, and brought him safe to the home where his mother had come from. He lived there and took care of his uncle's sheep and cattle till he had earned a great many for his own; and he had married there and had a great many sons. But after a time God commanded him to go home to the land of Canaan. He was afraid, because he thought his brother Esau might still be angry with him; but, in spite of his fear, he did as God bade him. When he came near the river Jordan, which flows on the east side of the land of Canaan, he prayed to God to guard him, and once more God let him see the angels who were going with him to protect him. He was glad, but he was still very careful

JACOB AND THE ANGEL.

He chose out a present of cows and goats and camels and sheep and asses for Esau, and sent it on to meet him, and then he sent on the other cattle he wanted to keep for himself; then his children; and last of all, in the safest place, his dear young son Joseph.

"Esau came to meet him, but not in anger. The two brothers met and fell on each other's neck and kissed each other and were friends. So God had kept His promise to take care of Jacob; and Jacob kept his promise, for he set up an altar at Bethel, where he had seen the angels before, and praised and blessed God."

"I knew Jacob would come out all right," said Willie. "Yes, and Esau did, too; and Jacob had to make up for taking his birthright, too."

JACOB RETURNS TO THE LAND OF CANAAN.

QUESTIONS.

Who was Jacob? Why had he left home? With whom did he go to live? What did he earn there? Why did he go back? Why was he afraid? But what comforted him? Of whom do God's angels take care? What did Jacob give Esau? How did Jacob put his family in order? Who went last? How did Esau meet him? How did Jacob show he was thankful?

Sixth Sunday.

Joseph in Egypt.

"His brethren envied him."—Genesis xxxvii: 11.

"NOW, Master Willie," said Aunt Charlotte, "I will tell you about a boy you will like." "Good," said Willie, clapping his hands. "Well, then, you know I told you last Sunday how Jacob went away from home, and how God promised to take care of him. He did take care of him; He led him to his uncle, and with him Jacob lived many years, and then came back with flocks of sheep and goats, camels and cows.

JOSEPH AND HIS FATHER.

Jacob had twelve sons. The best of all his sons was named Joseph. Jacob loved him very much, and gave him a striped dress of many colors, such

as the son who is to be the heir wears in those countries. But his brothers hated and envied him, and could not speak peaceably to him. One day, when Joseph was

JOSEPH CAST INTO THE PIT.

seventeen years old, ten of the brothers were out with their sheep, and Jacob desired Joseph to go and see what they were about. He would not tell his father how

unkind they were to him, but he went; and as they saw him coming some of them were so wicked as to say that they would kill him, and never let him go home. Reuben, who was the eldest brother, tried to hinder them; but when he saw he could not stop them, he said the best way would be not to kill him but to let him down into a dry well near by. There they meant to let him starve to death; and they let him down without any pity for him. Reuben meant to come by and by and take Joseph out of the pit and save him; but there was another brother named Judah, who did not want to have him killed, and who saw a great party of men, with camels and asses laden with goods, going on a journey. He knew they were merchants going to sell and buy in Egypt, and he advised the other brothers to persuade them to buy Joseph; for in those days men and women used to be bought and sold, and were called slaves. So Joseph was drawn up out of the pit; and when the merchants saw what a fine young man he was, they paid the price for him, and carried him off, away from his father and all he had ever known or cared for before. The cruel brothers kept his colored dress; and they killed a kid and stained it in the blood, and then carried it to their father, telling him they had found it. Jacob thought some wild beast had met Joseph and killed him and eaten him, and he mourned and wept. His sons pretended to comfort him, but not one of them would tell him that Joseph was not dead."

"Weren't those boys mean to treat poor Joseph that way?" said little Anna. "I knew that story all before," said Willie; "my Sunday-school teacher told us about it." "Very well, then, we'll have the questions now," said Aunt Charlotte.

QUESTIONS.

Whose son was Jacob? How many sons had Jacob? What did he set them to do? Which did he love best? What did he give Joseph? Where did he send Joseph? What did the brothers want to do? Who wished to save him? So what did Reuben persuade them to do? What did Reuben mean to do? But who came by? What did the brothers do with Joseph? Who persuaded them to sell him? What are people called who are bought and sold? What was done with his coat? What did Jacob think?

Joseph a Slave.

"The Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand."—Genesis xxxix: 3.

FOR TWENTY PIECES OF SILVER THEY SOLD JOSEPH TO THESE MEN.

"Aunt Charlotte, you did not finish about Joseph," said Clara. "No," answered Aunt Charlotte, "I told you about his being sold; so we see Joseph was made a slave. A slave is a servant who belongs to his master, as his cows and horses do; he gets no wages and cannot go away, but is bought and sold like cattle.

"Think of poor Joseph. He used to live as the son of a great rich prince, wearing a dress of many bright colors, with many servants, and no one to obey but his kind, fond father; and living in a beautiful land, all hill and valley, where he used to feed his father's flocks. But

now he was a slave in a strange land, with people speaking a language he did not know, and no one to care for him or say a good word to him, shut up in a house in a town, far away from his dear hills.

"Still he had one comfort, and the best of all—God was with him. He could still pray to God and do his duty. And he did his work well, for God helped him, and everything he did was made to prosper in his hand. Then he was trusted. His master knew that he always took care of everything as if it was his own, and left all to him, quite sure that it would be safe. But his wicked mistress made up a story that he had behaved ill, and he was put in prison for what he had not done. This sounds hard, but it was God's own way of bringing good to pass and making Joseph come at last to honor. Very soon he was loved and trusted in his prison, and all he did the Lord made it to prosper.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN IDOLS

"Think about this. Try, when you have anything to do—a lesson or a bit of work—to ask God to make it prosper. Then if you try your best He will help, and it will be sure to turn out well.

"Then try to deserve to be trusted. That is a great thing. If you always recollect that God sees you, you will do the same when no one is with you as if all the world were watching; and that is the way to be true

and just in all your dealings. If you are only good when you are looked at, you are not like Joseph, but are only doing service outwardly. You must try to live that your parents may, when you are —

"'Out of sight
Know all is right—
One law for darkness and for light.'"

"Didn't they let Joseph out of prison?" asked little Anna, with tears in her blue eyes. "I know," said Willie; "I know that, too. May I tell her, Aunt Charlotte?" "I will tell her in the next lesson," said Auntie.

QUESTIONS.

Whose son was Joseph? How many brothers had Joseph? What had they done to him? Why had Joseph's brothers sold him? What is a slave? How did Joseph behave as a slave? Who comforted him? How did he take care of his master's things? Who made up a story against him? What was done to him? But who was with him still? And what did people think of him, wherever he was? What is the way to be like Joseph? If you are trusted to carry a message, how should you do it? Who always sees you? Then, even if no one is by, how should you behave?

Joseph Tells the Meaning of Dreams.

"Do not interpretations belong to God?"—Genesis xl: 8.

"You remember we left Joseph in prison," began Aunt Charlotte; "but wherever he was he tried to do his duty, and so God blessed him; and the keeper of the prison soon found out how different he was from the others, and let him help. I suppose he helped to carry the prisoners their food and wait upon them; and he often could say a few kind good words to them. One day two grand people came in as prisoners. One was the chief of all

to Abraham

JACOB AT THE HOUSE OF LABAN.

And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah and the name of the younger was Rachel.—Genesis XXIV, 16.

the bakers, who made bread for King Pharaoh; and the other was the chief of all his cup-bearers, who carried him his wine. Some wrong thing had happened, and they were both suspected of having had something to do with it, so they had been sent to prison. One morning Joseph saw them both looking more sad than usual; and when he asked what was the matter, they said each had a dream, and they wanted to know what it meant; for the Egyptians used to think a great deal of dreams, and there were men among them who pretended to explain them. Most dreams have no meaning, but these had, and God put it into Joseph's heart to understand them. The cup-bearer had dreamt that he saw a vine, and that it had three bunches of grapes, and that he was squeezing the juice into the king's cup as he used to do. Joseph said this meant that in three days the cup-bearer should really hand Pharaoh the cup again; and Joseph begged that when he was free he would tell the king about himself, and get him set free. Then the baker told his dream—that he had three baskets full of pastry and bread ready for Pharaoh, but that the birds came down and ate them up. Joseph was obliged to tell him that this meant that he would be hanged, and that the vultures and ravens would eat his flesh. So it

JOSEPH INTERPRETS THE DREAM.

happened. Pharaoh looked into the matter in three days' time; he caused the baker to be hung, and the cup-bearer to come back to his old place. But the cup-bearer was ungrateful, and forgot all about Joseph in his prison, trusting to him. And he stayed there a long time after. But, little Anna, he did get out and became a very great man, and I will tell you about it next Sunday."

Little Anna was very sorry she could not hear how it happened now, but she said she would wait, and she hoped he would be sure to get out. Aunt Charlotte patted her cheek and promised her he should do so in the very next lesson.

QUESTIONS.

Who was Joseph? Where was he? How came he to be in Egypt? Where had he been put? Had he done anything wrong? Who trusted him? What had he to do? Who came into the prison? What was the cup-bearer's dream? What was the baker's dream? What did Joseph say the cup-bearer's dream meant? What did the baker's dream mean? What happened? What had Joseph asked of the cup-bearer? Did he remember?

CAMELS.

Seventh Sunday.

Joseph's Brothers.

"We are verily guilty concerning our brother."—Genesis xlii: 21.

"NOW," said little Anna, clapping her hands, "this is the time for poor Joseph to get out of that mean prison." "Yes," said Aunt Charlotte, "Joseph did not always stay in prison, for God gave him wisdom to tell the king of Egypt that his dreams had meant that there was going to be first seven years of very fine harvests, and then seven years would come of no harvests at all. So the king took him out of prison and made him a great lord; and he set to work to buy the corn that was over and above what people wanted to eat in the years of plenty, that he might store it up against the years when the corn would not grow.

JOSEPH BEFORE PHARAOH.

"So when the bad harvest began Joseph had plenty of corn, and he sold it for the king to all who wanted

it. The famine was not only in Egypt but in all the countries round; and by and by Joseph saw, among the people that came to buy, ten of his own brothers—the same who had sold him for a slave. He knew them, for they still looked like shepherds, but they did not know him, for he had grown from a youth to a man, and was dressed like an Egyptian lord; and he did not let them

"WHAT WICKED THING IS THIS YOU HAVE DONE?"

know that he knew them, though he wanted much to know what had become of his old father and his little brother Benjamin. He made as if he thought they were enemies, come to see if Egypt could be conquered.

"Then they told him who they were; that they were all one man's sons, and that one brother they had lost; the other was left with his father, who could not bear to part with him. Joseph would not seem to believe this,

and said he must keep one of them in prison while he sent the rest back to fetch their youngest brother, or else he could not believe them. Then, when fear and trouble came on them, they began to think how ill they had used their lost brother Joseph; and they said one to another, 'We are verily guilty concerning our brother.' Joseph heard them, and could hardly bear it; but still he kept to his plan. He kept Simeon a prisoner, that he might be sure of the others coming back, and sent them home to fetch Benjamin. But he would not have any of the money they had brought for the corn, and made his steward put it all back into the mouths of their sacks.

"When they found this out as they went home they were much afraid, and when they came home their father was more afraid still. After the way they had used Joseph he thought they had killed Simeon, and wanted to kill Benjamin. They spoke truth now, but he could not believe them; and he said he could not send Benjamin, for if mischief should befall the lad, 'then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.'"

"I am so glad Joseph got out of prison," said Anna. "Yes, but he ought to have licked his old, mean brothers." "Stop, Willie," said Aunt Charlotte. "The Bible says we must forgive those who injure us."

QUESTIONS.

Where was Joseph? Why was he in prison? What did God make him able to tell the king? How many years was there to be much corn? What was to be done with the corn? Who managed the buying it? When was the corn wanted? Who came to buy corn? Who did not come? Why did not Joseph's brothers know him? What did he make believe to think? Whom did he tell them to fetch? What did he give back to them? What did their father say about Benjamin's going? Why was he afraid to trust them with Benjamin? **What is the way to be believed?**

Joseph's Brothers Go Again to Egypt.

"God Almighty give you mercy before the man."—Genesis xliii: 14.

"Joseph's brothers were soon obliged to go again and buy more corn in Egypt. Joseph had said they must bring the young brother they had told him of, or he should not believe their story; and when they said Benjamin must go, their father, Jacob, was greatly grieved, and showed how little he could trust them now, after the way

EGYPTIAN WOMEN.

they had behaved to Joseph. He would not have let Benjamin go at all if Judah had not promised to take the greatest care of him; and Judah could be trusted.

"The story is so beautiful and so easy to understand in the Bible, that I hardly like to tell it in my own words. Only think of Joseph's heart being so full when he saw his own dear youngest brother that he could not

stay with him for his tears, and went away to weep in his chamber! And yet he still tried the brothers. He wanted to see if they still were envious of the one their father loved best; so he made his steward hide his cup in Benjamin's sack of corn, and then go after them and pretend to think they had stolen it.

"The sons of Jacob were no thieves, and they said the steward might search their sacks. They took them down and looked, and there was the cup in Benjamin's sack!

"They were all shocked; and the steward said that Benjamin must go back and be punished.

"How pleased they would have been long ago if such a misfortune had happened to Joseph! But now their hearts were changed, and they were shocked and grieved."

"I'm glad they got into trouble," said Willie; "served 'em right." "Yes, but poor little Benjamin and old Jacob," said little Anna. "Joseph ought to have sent his papa a letter to tell him all about it."

QUESTIONS.

What had Joseph's brothers done to him? What trouble did you hear last Sunday he was in? But how did he behave? And what had he come to be? What had he stored up? Who came to buy corn? How many brothers came? Which did not come? Why did not Benjamin come? Did the brothers know Joseph? What did he tell them to do? When he saw Benjamin, where did he go? What did Joseph tell his steward to do? What did Joseph want to see? How did the brothers behave this time?

Joseph Makes Himself Known.

"God did send me before you to preserve life."—Genesis xlv: 5.

"Do hurry, Auntie, about Joseph. I'm most crazy to know about him and little Benjamin," said Anna.

"Well, to begin where we left off," said Aunt Charlotte. "All the eleven sons of Jacob turned back in grief and fear and dismay with Benjamin. How the cup came to be in his sack they could not guess, but they knew that their father's heart would break if they came home and left Benjamin to be a slave.

"So they all went back to the lord of the land, and Judah stood up before the strange, stern, princely man, and told him how much their old father loved this youngest son, and he would be sure to die if the lad did not come home safe. And then Judah begged to stay and be a slave in Egypt, instead of his brother Benjamin, for he said if mischief befell the lad his father would die, and that he could not bear to see.

"But when Judah so spake, the lord of the land sent all the lookers-on away, and wept aloud, and said that he was their own brother, Joseph, whom they had sold so long ago. He would not let them be afraid; he embraced them all and wept for joy, and asked for his father. Then he told them not to grieve for what had gone before; for God had turned it all to good, and made him be the means of saving all their lives, by storing up the corn in Egypt.

"And now they were to go home, and tell Jacob, their father, that Joseph was still alive, and was a great and powerful man; and they were to fetch old Jacob, their father, and their wives and their children, and all

JOSEPH MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN TO HIS BRETHREN.

they had, and come to live with Joseph in Egypt, where he would take care of them.

"That was the way Joseph forgot all the ill his brothers had done to him, and forgave them, and loved them with all his heart. When the brothers came home, their father, Jacob, could scarcely believe such good news; but at last he said, 'Joseph my son is yet alive, I will go to see him before I die.'

"And he came down to Egypt, and Joseph met him and fell on his neck and kissed him; and then there was joy indeed, joy as if Joseph had come back from the dead.

"So Jacob lived all the rest of his life in Egypt, and was happy with his son Joseph. God had given him another name, Israel, and his sons, and their sons after them, were always called the children of Israel."

"Now, brother," said Clara, "don't you see Joseph was right?" "Yes," answered little Anna, "he was a good boy to his old, mean brothers; and don't you expect they all loved him after that?"

"Right, my darling," said Aunt Charlotte. "Jesus said we must do good to those who treat us meanly, and that we must love our enemies. That makes them our friends."

QUESTIONS.

Who was Benjamin? What was found in Benjamin's sack? Who put it there? What was going to be done to Benjamin? Who spoke for him? What did Judah ask? Who did the lord of the land turn out to be? How came Joseph to be in Egypt? Why had his brothers not known him sooner? How did he treat them? Whom did he send for? What did Jacob say? Where did Jacob go to live? Why was it very kind in Joseph to help his brothers?

Eighth Sunday.

The Baby in the River.

"I have surely seen the affliction of My people."—Exodus iii. 7.

"WILL you tell us more about Joseph, Auntie?" "No, Willie; we will skip a long time—nearly three hundred years—and see how Jacob's people got on in the land of Egypt, and I will start with the baby in the river.

"You heard in our last lesson how Joseph brought his father and brothers and their children to live in Egypt. Their children's children went on living there for many years, till they had come to be a great people, and were called the children of Israel; but then the King of Egypt grew cruel to them. He made them work very hard to make bricks and build towns for him; and, what was still worse, he ordered that whenever a boy was born

MOSES IN THE BULRUSHES.

to the children of Israel, he should be thrown into the river and drowned.

"One mother hid her little baby for three months, and when she could not hide him any longer she put him into a little cradle of bulrushes, covered over with pitch to keep the water out, and let the cradle float on the river, leaving the little boy's sister to watch him. Presently a lady, no other than the daughter of the cruel king, came down to bathe in the river. She saw the little cradle and had it brought to her. The little baby was crying, and the lady pitied him and took him home, to bring him up for her own child. She wanted a nurse for him, and his sister brought the baby's own mother, and she became his nurse.

MOSES KEEPING SHEEP IN THE WILDERNESS.

"His name was Moses, and he grew up in the king's house as the son of the king's daughter; but when he grew up he went away from the king's house, because he loved his people and preferred to live with them, and the king grew angry with him because he cared for his own people, and he had to flee away and keep sheep in the wilderness.

"And there he saw a great wonder. He saw a flame

of fire in a bush, and yet the bush was not burnt. And God's voice spoke to him out of the fire that did not burn, and told him that the troubles of His people, the children of Israel, were to come to an end. God would save them from the cruel Egyptians; and Moses himself was to go and lead them out, and bring them to the good land that God had promised that Abraham's children should have for their own. Moses was to go and tell the king of Egypt that it was God's will that they should go. Moses was afraid at first, but God promised to help him; and in our next lesson you will hear what happened."

"Tell us now," said little Anna. "Was it bad?" "This afternoon, my darling," said Aunt Charlotte. "Now see how well you can answer the questions."

QUESTIONS.

Who was Moses? Where was he put when he was a baby? Why was he put on the river? Who had said the little boys were to be drowned? Whose babies were they that were to be drowned? What other cruel things did the King of Egypt do to the children of Israel? Who were called the children of Israel? What became of Moses in his bulrush cradle? Who brought him up? Did he stay with the king's daughter? Whom did he care for? What wonder did Moses see? Who spoke to him? What was God going to do for His people? What land would He give them? Who had the first promise that his children should have the good land?

Moses and Aaron Before the King.

"And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord?"—Exodus v: 2.

"Now, Moses had a brother Aaron, who was a priest and a good talker, and he got him to go with him and they told Pharaoh God's message—that the people of Israel were to go away and worship Him. But Pharaoh said, 'Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to

let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.' And he was more cruel to the children of Israel; he made them work harder and harder, and had them beaten if they did not do all the work that was set them. They had to make bricks of clay mixed with straw; and, to punish them, Pharaoh said that they should have no straw given to them for their work, but that they must find it for themselves; and yet he required of them just as many bricks as they had had to make before. Then they cried out and were angry, and fancied Moses had brought all this trouble on them by asking for them to go. They were very miserable, and said they wished they had never listened to Moses, for he had only made them worse off instead of better.

COLOSSAL FIGURE DISCOVERED AT MEMPHIS.

"Aaron was a better speaker than Moses, and God had said he should help him, and that when God told Moses anything, Aaron should speak it to the people. So the two brothers stood telling the Israelites to bear it a little longer, and then it would be all well and over, and they would get away from making the bricks in Egypt to the beautiful country. They could not remember it themselves, but some of their fathers' grandfathers had been little boys when they came, and could tell them that it was a country not all flat, with only one river in it, like Egypt, but full of steep hills and green valleys, with bright streams running along in them, and thick woods on some of the slopes, and others laid out in

THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

gardens and vineyards. There were so many cows in the pastures, and in the wild rocks and hollow trees so many bees' nests, that it was called a land flowing with milk and honey.

"Should not the Israelites have liked to hear of such a place as this? But, no; they were too dull to care. They thought more of whether they should get a leek or a melon to eat at supper than of all the lovely land far away. Do you know, people are very like that when they care for *now* more than for *by and by*. If we want just what pleases us to-day, instead of caring for what will be good for us as we grow older, we are just like the Israelites, who would not attend to Moses or to God."

ISRAELITES MAKING BRICKS IN EGYPT.

"If I was Moses and Aaron I would have gone off to that pretty country and left those good-for-nothing Israelites in Egypt," said Willie. "Not so," said Aunt Charlotte. "We must do all the good we can for others. That's the way Jesus did."

QUESTIONS.

Who was Pharaoh? Who were the children of Israel? Who had been sent to call them? What did Pharaoh say to Moses? How did he use the Israelites? What would he not give them? Who was Moses' brother? What was Aaron to do for Moses? Who spoke to Moses? Who told the people what God said to Moses? What kind of place did God promise? What did Moses say it flowed with? Why? Did the Israelites care? Why not? When are we like them?

How God Punished the King.

"I will redeem you with a stretched out arm."—Exodus vi:6.

"The Israelites grew very unhappy, for Pharaoh became even more cruel to them, and they thought it all Moses' fault. But Moses told them that they must go away and that no matter what came on Egypt they would be saved, and that God was going to show them His power, so that they might always remember what He had done for them, and how He punished Pharaoh, who would not obey Him.

"Then God made His power to be known; so that Pharaoh and the children of Israel might both learn who is the great Lord of heaven and earth, who must be obeyed. First, Moses stretched out his rod, and all the water in the river turned into blood. For seven days it was all one red dreadful stream of blood; and when Moses held out his rod again it turned back into pure water. But Pharaoh did not mind, and would not let the people go. Then God sent a multitude of frogs, that came into all the houses and bed-rooms, and on the tables and everywhere. Pharaoh could not bear to have these creatures everywhere, and said if the frogs would but go away he would let the children of Israel go. Moses prayed to God, and all the frogs died; but Pharaoh only hardened his heart again, and would not let the people go. Next, God sent lice—disgusting, unclean creatures, most horrible to the Egyptians, who could not bear anything dirty; but Pharaoh did not care. Then came swarms of flies, buzzing, stinging, and tormenting; and Pharaoh said he would allow the Israelites to go, so the flies were taken away; but no sooner were they gone than he went

back again to his obstinacy, and would not let the people go. He was trying to fight against God, and so came these terrible miseries on him. If people will not do better after being punished, worse and worse is sure to come on them."

"But didn't he let 'em go?" said little Anna. "Yes," said Aunt Charlotte; "at another time I'll tell you how it was."

QUESTIONS.

How did God punish Pharaoh? What four plagues have I told you of to-day? Why did these dreadful things happen? Did Pharaoh care for them? Why did he not mind them? What happens to those who do not mind being punished?

A BRAZEN LAVER ON WHEELS.

Ninth Sunday.

The Plagues of Egypt.

"There is none like Me in all the earth."—Exodus ix: 14.

"The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go."—Exodus x: 20.

PHARAOH.

"NOW tell us some more about mean old Pharaoh and how he had to let the children of Israel go away from Egypt. You said you would, Auntie," pleaded little Anna, as they all took their places after breakfast.

"I will, my dear," answered Aunt Charlotte, "and I will give you another surprise. You notice the weather is getting warm and spring-like. Suppose we have one long talk this morning. Then, after church, we will use the afternoon for a pleasant walk, to see if there are any tiny flowers coming."

"Good!" shouted Willie, throwing up his hat, and the other children were equally delighted.

"Well, then, last Sunday we had learned about four plagues—." "I know," said Willie; "the river turned to blood, the frogs, and the lice and the flies." "Right," said Auntie. "I had forgot about the old hop-frogs," put in little Anna. "Was there any more '*plegs*,' Auntie?"

"Yes; six times more God had to punish wicked Pharaoh, and these six terrible plagues I will tell you about to-day," said Aunt Charlotte, and she straightened herself up in her chair and talked very earnestly and looked away as if she could see all the terrible things she described, and the children did not once take their eyes off her face, so deeply were they interested.

"After God had sent the flies, next he made the sheep and cows, that the Egyptians worshiped like gods, fall sick and die, but still Pharaoh did not care; then the people all had sores and boils that made them very ill, but still Pharaoh did not care; and then there was a terrible storm, thunder and lightning, and rain and hail—such big hailstones as killed the men and cattle that were out in the fields, and lightning that struck them, and wind that broke every tree in the field. No wonder that Pharaoh was frightened, and begged that the storm might cease, and said that then he would let the Israelites go. So Moses prayed to God, and the thunder left off, there was no more hail, and it was all still again. But when the thunder was over Pharaoh grew wicked again, and left off caring, and said the Israelites should not go. And thus God went on being angry with him and sending worse plagues upon him.

"Worse troubles are sure to come when people have not taken warning by what was sent them before. Pharaoh had not minded seven dreadful plagues, so now God sent another. He sent locusts. These were creatures like great grasshoppers. They came in swarms and clouds, and ate up every green leaf and blade of grass, and made all the earth brown and the trees dry sticks, so that there was nothing left for man or beast to eat. Then Pharaoh

gave way a little, and said he would let the men go, but that their wives and children must stay; and he would not hear a word more, but had Moses and Aaron driven out from before him.

"Then God bade Moses to hold up his hand to Heaven. And darkness came all over the land. It was dark all day—and with 'darkness that might be felt;' not like night, but such black darkness that no fire or candle could give light, and no one dared to move about, but the Egyptians lay still in their places, full of horror and terror, for three whole days. But all the time it was light among the Israelites—the sun rose and set as usual; and thus God showed that they were His people. Then Pharaoh said that he would let them go—men, women, and children, only he must keep all their cattle; and when Moses, speaking God's words, said that the cattle must go, too, and not a hoof be left behind, Pharaoh made his heart hard again, and drove out Moses, saying the people should not go, and that Moses should never see his face again. And Moses said, 'Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more.'

LOCUST.

"So ended the last hope for Pharaoh. He was never to have another chance of bending his will and doing as God told him. Oh, let us take care not to be like him.

"After the nine sad plagues that had come upon the Egyptians—the blood for water, the frogs, the lice, the

flies, the cattle plague, the boils, the hail, the locusts, the darkness—there was to be still one plague more, the last and worst. That would make the Egyptians let the people of Israel go, so they must be ready.

"There should be a terrible night. God's holy angel would pass over the whole land of Egypt that night, and in each house of the Egyptians he would slay the eldest son of the family. No one would be spared: Pharaoh's eldest son, the young prince, and the very poorest person's son. They had killed the little Israelite babies, so God would punish them by killing their children. None of the Israelites should lose their children; only there was one thing for them to do. They were that night to make their supper on a lamb, and, with some of the blood of the lamb they were to make a mark on the doors of their houses. Where that mark was the angel would pass over and do no one any hurt; but the people would be blest and set free, because they believed God, and did as He bade them."

"That was a good story, Auntie," said Clara, "and it teaches us that we must obey God or be punished. Pharaoh was like all sinners who do not keep their promises to God. They are punished for it." "Did Moses' folks get away?" asked Anna. "I'll tell you about it next Sunday," answered Auntie; "and this time, as we have had a long talk, I will not ask any questions."

Tenth Sunday—Easter Day.

The Passover.

"There was not a house in which there was not one dead."—Exodus xii: 30.

"THIS is the day I promised to tell you, Anna, about Moses' people leaving Egypt; but in the morning lesson I want to tell you that this is the Sunday many Christians celebrate as Easter, which means deliverance.

EGYPTIAN KING IN HIS CHARIOT.

"This is our own gladdest Sunday in all the year, and we read of the Israelites being glad, too—glad upon the very Sunday that answered to this, thousands of years ago. On this Sunday, of all those thousands of years, there has been joy and gladness and thanking God. And why? It was because all the troubles in Egypt were over, and God brought the Israelites out safe. There was one thing they had to do first, though; Moses bade them do it, as God commanded. I told you they had to eat a

lamb for supper. Yes; every family was to take a lamb, and it was to be killed and roasted whole in the evening, and some of its blood was to be marked upon the door-post of the house, and then all the family were to stand round the table, all ready dressed for a journey, and eat it as fast as they could, late at night.

"And while all the families—fathers and mothers and children—stood up eating the lamb in this strange way, there came a great shout and cry. God had sent His angel to punish the cruel Egyptians; and every house where there was no mark of blood on the door-post had some one dead in it, and that dead person was the eldest or first-born son. There was a great cry, for there was death everywhere, from the son of Pharaoh who sat on his throne down to the child of the poorest slave; and even the first-born of cattle died, too, because the Egyptians used to worship them; but wherever there was the blood on the door-post the angel passed over, and the eldest son was safe. The cruel King Pharaoh was sorry and afraid at last, and said that the people who brought such trouble on him should go where they liked. And, Anna, in the story this afternoon and to-night I will tell you all about it."

QUESTIONS.

Why are we glad to-day? Where were the Israelites living? Who said they should come out? What did God tell the Israelites to eat? How were they to be dressed while they ate it? What were they to do with the blood? Who was going to pass over the land that night? What did the angel do where he did not see any blood on the door-post? Who were frightened then?

The Passover and Easter Day.

"It is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover."—Exodus xii: 27.

"Now, children," began Aunt Charlotte, "I want to teach you a little lesson to show you why the Jews keep the Passover and many Christians observe Easter day.

"When the king of Egypt said the Israelites might go they were all up and dressed, quite ready and only waiting, and off they set. No more making of bricks, no more slaving for the Egyptians, no more drowning of babies! They were free! and God was going to lead them to the beautiful country that long ago He had said He would give them.

"And so always after that, to put them in mind how they were saved from the Egyptians, God bade them on the same day in each year to kill a lamb and roast it, and put the blood on the door-post, and eat the lamb all standing round the table, dressed as if they were going for a journey, that they might never forget how God had made them free. This was called the Passover, because the angel passed over the houses where the blood was marked over the door. And God came in a pillar of cloud to show them the way they should go.

"Now, you remember, hundreds of years after this our blessed Lord was crucified when He had come to the Feast of the Passover at Jerusalem. You know He was like a lamb, He was so pure and gentle; and His blood saves us, as that lamb's blood did the Israelites, and sets us free from the power of the devil. So we still keep the feast of being set free, on this happy Easter Sunday, when we recollect that Christ was slain for our sins, but that He rose again from the dead, and liveth for evermore."

QUESTIONS.

What did Pharaoh say that the Israelites might do? What made him let them go at last? Who were set free? What were the Israelites to do every year? What was this eating the lamb called? Why was it called the Passover? Why were the Israelites glad? Who set us free? In what is He like a lamb?

Going Out of Egypt.

"The children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."—Exodus xiv: 16.

"This is the time the Israelites are to get away, Aunt Charlotte," said Willie. "Yes; and don't let mean old Pharaoh keep them any more," said little Anna.

"All the Egyptians were weeping over their dead first-born sons, and the Israelites were set free, and going gladly out and away from their hard masters.

"But Pharaoh's hard heart turned again, and he got all his chariots and horsemen together, and went after the children of Israel to drive them back to Egypt." "Oh! now, but he did not catch them, did he?" asked Anna, with great excitement. "No; when he came in sight of them, there they were all upon the shore of the sea called the Red Sea. They could not go on, for the sea was straight before them; they could not go back, for the Egyptians were behind. They were sore afraid. But God spoke to Moses, and told him not to fear. They had only to stand still and see how God would save them.

"And God Himself showed that He was with them, for the pillar of cloud went behind them, instead of before, and made it dark to the Egyptians, but gave light by night to the Israelites; so the Egyptians could not get near them all night." "How glad I am," said little Anna, clapping her hands.

"Then God bade Moses stretch out his rod over the sea. And then there was a great wonder. The waves of the sea parted, and stood up on each side in a heap, and in between there was a wide, open space, where the children of Israel might walk safely dry-shod, through the very midst of the sea. Through it they went, men, women, and children, through the depths of the sea, with the waves standing still on each side of them.

"Pharaoh saw that they were all gone over. He chose to follow after them. But when his host was full in the midst, the sea returned to its strength again and came down on the Egyptians, and every one of them was drowned—'they sank like lead in the mighty waters'—and the Israelites were freed from their enemies, quite away from all their trouble and all their slavery; and they all sang hymns of joy to God, who had set them free.

"And now, as we hear about their being set free, let us remember this is the great Easter day, when we ought to give special thanks to our Blessed Lord Jesus for having set us free."

"I'm so glad they got away safe," said Anna. "Yes; and I'm gladder because those wicked Egyptians got drowned," put in Willie. "No, brother, rather we should be sorry their wickedness made them go into their destruction," said Clara. "Right," said Aunt Charlotte. "We should never rejoice in any wicked person's death. Christ came to save the wicked, and but for His coming we should all be lost."

QUESTIONS.

Who had set off to leave Egypt? But what did Pharaoh do? What was before the Israelites? What was behind? Where did the pillar of cloud go? How were the Egyptians cut off from them? What wonder did God work? Where did the Israelites go over? Who came after them? What became of the Egyptians? Who were free? Who had made them free? Who makes us free?

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EGYPTIANS.

Eleventh Sunday.

Wicked Men Swallowed Up.

"The Lord will show who are His and who is holy."—Numbers xvi: 5.

"WHEN the Israelites came out of Egypt they had a long journey to go, through a dreary, lonely wilderness. Moses and his brother Aaron led them; and God took care of them, and fed them, and kept them safe. But there were two wicked men, named Dathan and Abiram, who were tired of the wilderness, and were angry at having Moses for their leader and master, though God had made him lead them, and had done so much for them. They said they were as good as Moses, and that he should not be their prince. They did not care for God having spoken by him.

"Their end was so very dreadful that I can hardly tell it to you. God would not let them rise up against His servant Moses; and when they would not listen nor repent He made the earth open under their feet, and they went down alive, and were swallowed up in the pit before the eyes of all the other Israelites; and so they died the most terrible death any one ever died. It was because they set themselves up against Moses, whom God had placed over them, that He was so angry with them.

"Remember God has set people over us; there are

our fathers and mothers, and our clergymen and teachers; and it is our duty to obey them, as He tells us in the Fifth Commandment. If we are proud and saucy, it is very wrong of us. It is not likely that we should be so dreadfully punished in this life as Dathan and Abiram

THE HIGH PRIEST BURNING INCENSE WITHIN THE HOLY OF HOLIES.

were; but their horrible death should make us remember that God is very angry with those that will not try to obey those that have the rule over them, and set themselves up to be bold and proud, and to say they do not care."

QUESTIONS.

Who was set over the Israelites by God? Where had he brought them from? Where was he leading them to? How should they have behaved to him? What bad men were there among them? Why was it very wicked of Dathan and Abiram not to obey Moses? What terrible end did they come to? Why was God angry with Dathan and Abiram? Whom did He set over you? Then how must you behave to your parents and clergyman and teachers?

Korah and His Friends Burnt to Death.

"And seek ye the priesthood also?"—Numbers xvi: 10.

"I will tell you to-day about a wicked meddler." "Some people are always meddling with other people's business," said Willie. "Yes, and we will see how this meddler suffered," began Aunt Charlotte. "When God had the children of Israel started on their journey He chose that Aaron, Moses' brother, and his sons should be His priests. A priest had to offer up the sacrifices to God, and to burn incense to Him. Incense is made of dried plants and gums that have a sweet smell when they are burnt. The priests had brazen urns with holes at the top, and chains to hold them by, and when the smoke of the incense went up it was just as our prayers rise up to God in heaven. There were other people called Levites, who had to take care of the holy things that were used in God's service, but only the priests might offer sacrifices or incense.

"Now, one of these Levites, named Korah, wanted to do more. He was angry, and said everybody was holy, and that Aaron took too much on himself. Now, it was not Aaron who made himself priest, but God had made him so. Therefore it was wrong in Korah: but there

were two hundred and fifty men whom he persuaded to come and get censers, and offer incense to the Lord as if they had been priests. But because they did it in pride and self-will God was angry with them, and His fire burst out and scorched them all to death! It was only the men themselves that died, not their wives or children; and Korah's family after him were better than he was, and used to sing God's praises in the Psalms.

"But they always recollected that no one who was not a priest might offer sacrifice or burn incense before God."

"The lesson we learn from this," said Clara, "I should think is that we must do what God wants us to." "Yes, and mind our own business," said Willie.

QUESTIONS.

What had a priest to do? Who was the right priest? How came Aaron to be priest? Who wanted to offer incense? What did Korah say? How many came with him? What did they try to do? What happened to the two hundred and fifty? Why were they punished? What became of Korah's children?

How They Made High Priests.

"The rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds."—Numbers xvii: 8.

"Why did the priest offer a sacrifice, Aunt Charlotte?" asked Clara, as they took their seats after tea. "An important question; I am glad you asked it," said their aunt.

"The high priest, whom God chose, had to offer sacrifices to Him. That was, the priest slew a lamb or a goat or a bullock by the altar and gave it to God. It was to show that the Son of God would come and die to take away sin. Now He has come and died, we have left

off killing creatures in sacrifice, and only make remembrance over again of His sacrifice in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

"The high priest used to wear a beautiful dress. He had a miter on his head, with a gold plate on it, and the words, 'Holiness unto the Lord;' and he had a blue, red, and white robe, embroidered with gold, and round the hem little gold bells and pomegranates. He had a curious scarf called an ephod, and a beautiful breast-plate made of twelve precious stones, each with the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel engraven on it." "How did Aaron know he was to be the high priest?" asked Willie. "Another good question," answered Auntie.

THE HIGH PRIEST IN HIS BEAUTIFUL DRESS.

"It was done this way. God said He would show who should be His priest. So He

bade Moses desire the chief man in each tribe to bring him a dry rod or staff, and lay them up all night in the Holy Place. The one whose rod began to grow as if it was still on the tree should be the high priest. When the twelve men went to look in the morning, eleven rods were dry sticks still, but one had put out green leaves and pink buds and white blushing flowers, like almond blossoms. It was Aaron's rod; and this was the way God let the children of Israel know that Aaron and his sons, and grandsons after him, were always to be priests." "Now I understand it; don't you, brother?" said little Anna. "Oh, that's easy," answered Willie.

QUESTIONS.

What was a priest? What creatures were killed? What was this to make the children of Israel think of? Why don't we kill sacrifices now? What did the high priest wear on his head? What color was his dress? How was it edged? What was on his breast? How did God say he would show who was to be the high priest? What were the eleven rods like in the morning? But how did one look? Whose was it? What, then, was Aaron to be?

PLAGUE OF FROGS.

Twelfth Sunday.

Moses Bringing Water Out of the Rock.

"Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God."—Deut. vi: 16.

"I TOLD you what sort of a place a desert is, and how full it is of stones and rocks and sand, and with no water in it. Do you remember how thirsty Ishmael was in a desert, and how God heard the voice of the lad, and sent an angel to lead his mother to a well of water?" "Yes, I learned that at Sunday-school," said Willie.

THE HIGH PRIEST OFFERING INCENSE.

"Well, when the Israelites had come out of the land of Egypt they were in a terrible wilderness. Mount Sinai stood up in the midst, and all round were great rocks

of red and black stone, all dry and parched with the hot sun shining on them. The Israelites grew very hot and sadly thirsty, but they did not pray as Ishmael had done. They grew angry, and said, 'Is the Lord among us or no?' Do you not think they deserved that God should show whether He was among them by punishing them for grumbling?" "But they wanted some water to drink," said Anna. "That was the way they tempted God. Yes, and He was so good and merciful that He pitied them; and He bade Moses to take his rod, and go to the bare, dry rock and strike it. And when Moses struck the rock God made a beautiful, fresh, clear spring of water come pouring out of it, so that all the people, and all their cows and sheep and asses and camels, could drink and be refreshed. Was not that a great wonder? and was not God very kind to them, though they were not good? But you see God was near to help them all the time, and it was very sad that they grumbled instead of praying. Do not be like them. If a thing is hard to bear, don't murmur and grumble about it, but pray, and then you will get help. Either the vexing thing will go away, or you will leave off minding it."

QUESTIONS.

What was the mountain in the midst of the desert? What cannot be found in the desert? Who was the lad that was thirsty there before? What did Ishmael do when he was thirsty? But what did the Israelites do? What did they say? What would have served them right? But did God punish them? What did He tell Moses to do? What came out of the rock? Who made the water come out of the rock? Was it not very good of God to give them water? What ought they to have done? What should you do when a thing is hard? Is it not very naughty to grumble?

MOSES SMITING THE ROCK

The Serpents that Bit the People.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up."—John iii: 14.

"What will you tell us about this afternoon?" asked Willie. "Snakes," answered Aunt Charlotte, with a laugh. "But I don't like snake stories," said little Anna. "But you must be patient, my little curlyhead," said Aunt Charlotte, patting the chubby cheek, "this story is in the Bible.

"One great fault of the Israelites was that they had no patience. The moment they saw anything troublesome or difficult they began to cry out, and say they could not get on, and it was very hard on them. Now, it is very wrong ever to say God is very hard upon us, for we may be sure He is doing what is best for us. There was one stony, hot, steep part of the journey still to come, and when the Israelites saw it they forgot how often God had helped them, and cried out, and lamented, and complained of Him and of Moses.

"So again they were punished, for the little shining snakes that live there came in numbers, darting at them and biting them, so that the bite burnt like fire, and they died. Then they cried out to God and were sorry, and He told Moses of a wonderful way to cure them. Moses was to melt up some brass and make a great serpent, like the little ones that bit them, and set it up on a pole. Then if any one who was bitten would come at once and look up at the brazen serpent his bite would get well, and he would not die of it.

"This was a miracle—a wonder. And it was to teach the Israelites something, and us too. For you know our

Blessed Lord hung on the cross, as the serpent hung on the pole, and when our souls are in danger of dying of sin, we must think of Him, and look to Him in faith, and He will save us from being punished for our sin, and keep our souls from dying if we believe in Him as our Saviour."

QUESTIONS.

What sort of place had the Israelites to go over? How did they like it? What did they do? Who had been taking care of them? How did God punish them? What happened when the serpents bit them? What were they sorry for? So what was Moses to make? Where did he put the brazen serpent? What were they to do if they were bit? What cured them? Who hung upon the cross? What does He cure our souls of?

Food Sent from Heaven.

"He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not."—Deut. viii: 3.

"This morning," said Aunt Charlotte, drawing little Anna to her, "you heard how God gave the children of Israel water to drink in the wilderness. Then how He saved them from the fiery serpents. Now you shall hear what He gave them to eat. The ground was all hard and stony. There was grass which the cows and sheep could eat, and there were a few trees with long, sharp thorns, but no fruit on them, and no corn to make bread; and soon the people were very hungry and began to cry out that they did not know what would become of them.

"But God was not going to forget them. When they rose up in the morning the fresh dew lay on the grass, and all about in the dew were little white things that tasted like wafers made with honey. This was called

manna, and God had sent it from heaven for them to eat. Every morning on week days there it was, and they had all to come out and pick it up. But they must get up early to gather it, for when the sun was hot it would melt away. And they could not keep it—it grew bad and was not fit to use the next day; but there was always just enough for everybody to have all they wanted.

GATHERING MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS.

There was only one day in each week that more came down, and that was the day before the Sabbath—Saturday—which they kept instead of our Sunday. Then each one could get twice as much as could be eaten in one day, and it did not spoil so fast. For on the Sabbath day God would have them rest, and so no manna was to be found any-

where, so that they might learn to keep the Fourth Commandment—'remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.'"

QUESTIONS.

Where were the Israelites? Why could they not get bread? What did God give them instead? What was the manna like? Where did it lie? When was the manna on the grass? Who were to eat it? What became of it in hot sunshine? Would it keep? What was the day when it could be kept? How much came down the day before the Sabbath? What might not be done on the Sabbath? When did no manna come?

AN EASTERN OVEN.

Thirteenth Sunday.

Balaam and the Wicked King.

"Thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed."—Numbers xxii: 12.

PALM TREE.

"CHILDREN," began Aunt Charlotte, "did you ever want to do something that your mamma said was not right, and did you tease her to let you do it?" "Not I," said little Anna, "but brother Willie does." "Well," said Auntie, "I'll tell you a story about one of God's children who did the same thing.

"There was a prophet called Balaam. A prophet means a man to whom God made His will known, and who was thus much wiser than other men. This prophet one day saw some rich, great men come to his house. They brought him a message, that a king named Balak wanted him to come with them, and would give him great rewards for coming. Balaam said he must wait for one night, and God would make known to him

what he was to do. And at night God told him he was not to go, for what Balak wanted of him was to curse the children of Israel, and God would not have them cursed. So Balaam said he must not go, and the messengers went away.

"But Balak sent more princes, still grander men, with larger presents, to fetch Balaam. He answered, 'If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more.' But he had not left off wishing. He begged the messengers to stay, and see if God would give him leave to go. And this time God did say he might go, but that he should not say anything about the Israelites but what God put in his mouth. Balaam knew that God was not pleased with him; but he wanted Balak's rewards, and he set off in the morning, riding on his ass.

"Presently the ass was frightened, and turned out of the road into the field. Balaam was angry at this, and beat the ass. But again the ass turned aside in a narrow walled path, and squeezed Balaam's foot against the wall. He beat her again. Presently, in a very narrow road, the poor ass fell quite down for fear; and Balaam was very angry, and beat her harder. Then God worked a wonder. He made the dumb ass to speak, and ask why he was so cruel to her. He answered that he only wished for a sword to kill her. The ass asked if she had ever been like this before. He said, No. And then, full before him, he saw God's holy angel with a sword in his hand. And he fell down on his face. The poor ass had seen the angel all the time, but Balaam could not see him till God made him able. And now he was afraid, and would have gone back; but the angel said he must go on now, though

he would only be able to speak the words which God put in his mouth. Think if, sometimes when you have been told you must not do something, you fret and tease to do it—is not that like Balaam? And perhaps you tease till some one gives you leave to do as you wish. Then you get quite cross with eagerness, and are unkind to all that hinders you; and, after all, you do not find that any good comes of getting your own way." "That's right. I guess I'll quit teasing mother to let me do what she doesn't want me to after this," said Willie. "When you do it hereafter we will call you Balaam," said Clara, and they all had a hearty laugh.

QUESTIONS.

What is a prophet? Who sent for Balaam? What did God tell Balaam? But what did Balaam wish to do? How did he get leave to go at last? But who stood in his way? Who saw the angel first? What did Balaam do to the ass? What wonder did God work? What did the ass say? Whom did Balaam see? What did the angel tell him? What had he been allowed to have? Does good come of having our own way?

Balak and Balaam Brought to Shame.

"There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel."—Numbers xxiv: 17.

"What did old Balak want Balaam to curse the Israelites for, Aunt Charlotte? Balaam wouldn't have got into that trouble if it hadn't been for him," said Willie. "Well," answered Aunt Charlotte, "Balak was a king whose land the Israelites were to pass through. They promised not to do any harm to him or his people, if they might go quietly through; but he was afraid and angry, and wanted to have them cursed, hoping to bring God's

anger on them. That was a very wicked and foolish notion of King Balak's and God would not let it bring harm upon His people. They had not deserved to have His anger called down on them, and so He would not be angry with them. And when Balak's friend Balaam tried to speak curses, God turned them all to blessings; and, instead of saying they should come to a terrible end, he could only say how happy and well off they should be, with God to take care of them and be their King. He even went on to say that a Star should come out of Jacob, and a Sceptre should rise out of Israel—and that meant that our Saviour should be born among them. He is called a Star because He came to give us light; and you know a star showed the way to the place where He was born. And a sceptre is the staff a king carries in his hand. So when He was called the Sceptre, it meant that He should be a King.

"Only think how angry Balak was when Balaam could not curse, but only blessed. I wish he had been afraid, and seen it was not God's will that he should hurt the Israelites; but instead of that he went on in his wickedness, and was miserably killed at last; for God took care of His people, and would let no one do them any harm.

"Now, recollect, bad words and bad wishes do harm to the person that speaks them, not to those they are meant for. If a bad boy came and abused a steady one for going to church or saying his prayers, it would be very bad for himself; but if the good boy kept on quietly, nothing that the other could say would hurt him one bit. God would take care of him as surely as He took care of the Israelites."

QUESTIONS.

Why did Balak want the Israelites to be cursed? What did Balaam do instead? Why could he not curse them? Who was to be born among the Israelites? What did Balaam call our Saviour? Why was He like a star? Why was He like a sceptre? Why could not Balak hurt the Israelites? Whom do bad words hurt? Ought we to mind them? If any one teases you when you try to be good, must you quit being good?

Balaam's Tricks and Punishment.

"The people did eat, and bowed down to their gods."—Numbers **xxv: 2.**

BAAL.

"Did Balaam get his money from old Balak?" asked Willie. "And did he beat his poor little donkey any more?" asked little Anna. "Did not his experiences turn him into a good man?" asked Clara. "No," said Aunt Charlotte; "not even this made Balaam good. He wanted Balak to give him a reward; and so he told him that though no harm could happen to the people of Israel while they were good and worshiped their God, yet if he could make them do something wicked, and turn away from their God, then God would be sure to punish them.

"So these two wicked men sent a number of women to invite the Israelites to hold a great feast with them, in honor of their idol Baal Peor. Many were so foolish and wicked as to be led away; and they had a great feasting and reveling, and all kinds of bad pleasures that these heathen women said were to do praise to this horrible false god. Then, though Balak might have cursed forever without hurting them, they had done themselves the harm. God sent a deadly sickness, and in one day twenty-four thousand people died.

"But Phinehas, Aaron's grandson, did as Moses commanded him. He first put to death the wickedest of the people who had joined themselves to Baal Peor; and then he prayed, and all the people prayed and wept, too. So God forgave them, and the plague ceased.

"Afterward Phinehas led the Israelite fighting men to punish the wicked Balak and his people; and Balaam was killed in fighting with them. All the wicked women who had tempted the Israelites away from God were put to death, too. So Balaam's evil counsel ended in all sorts of misery. It is very sad to think of him, for he knew so well what was good, and yet did what was so very bad. But remember this: nobody could hurt God's people till they did wrong, and then they hurt themselves, and God punished them."

"And wasn't Balaam bad, though? Brother, you musn't be like him," said little Anna, shaking her finger and looking sad.

QUESTIONS.

What did Balaam think would be the way to hurt the children of Israel? Whom did he send to them? Whom did the women persuade them to worship? What did God send to punish them? How was the plague stopped? How was Balaam punished? Why was Balaam greatly to be blamed? What became of Balaam? Who took care of the Israelites when they were good?

EGYPTIAN HOUSEHOLD GODS.

Fourteenth Sunday.

God Speaks to Moses.

"Thou heardest His words out of the midst of the fire."—Deut. iv: 36.

"WHAT would you think, Willie, if you should hear some one speaking to you from the clouds?" "It would be fun," said Willie. "I would be afraid," said little Anna. "So would Willie, if he should hear it as Moses heard it. I will tell you about it.

"When the children of Israel had come out of Egypt, God had told Moses to lead them to the foot of Mount Sinai. This was a high, steep, rocky mountain in the wilderness. And God told Moses to set bounds round the mountain, so that nobody should come and touch it; and the people were to pray, and wait round it for the holy and awful thing that was to happen. Then there came on the hill-top a deep, dark cloud, 'and Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke,' and it shook and quaked, and there were lightnings and thunders and voices, and the sound of a trumpet loud and louder, so that all the people trembled. Then out of that cloud there came a voice speaking to them—a voice that they all could hear, and that made them afraid. For it was the voice of God. And God spoke out of the cloud, and

DAVID TENDING HIS SHEEP.

"There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep."—I Sam. XVI, 11.

DAVID PLAYING BEFORE SAUL.

"And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took a harp, and played with his hand." —I Sam. XVI, 23.

gave the Ten Commandments. They were the very same Ten Commandments you see in the Bible. God had come in this terrible and awful manner to speak them, that all Israel might hear and fear, and take care not to break them. Afterward God gave these Ten Commandments to Moses, written upon two tables, or pieces of stone—written by God Himself. That was the way the Ten Commandments were given—by God's own voice speaking to men out of the cloud, amid thunders and lightnings and the sound of the trumpet, dreadful to hear. And God means us all to obey the Commandments, just as much as He meant the Israelites to obey them. They are His words, and must be kept; and if we ask Him in our prayers He will give us help and strength to obey them, so that we may fulfil the promise that was made at our baptism, that we should keep God's holy will and Commandments, and walk in the same unto our lives' ends."

THE ERECTION OF THE TABERNACLE.

"I would have been frightened if I had been there with Moses," said Willie. "But Moses knew God was his friend and was not afraid," answered Clara. "Right again, my girl," rejoined Aunt Charlotte.

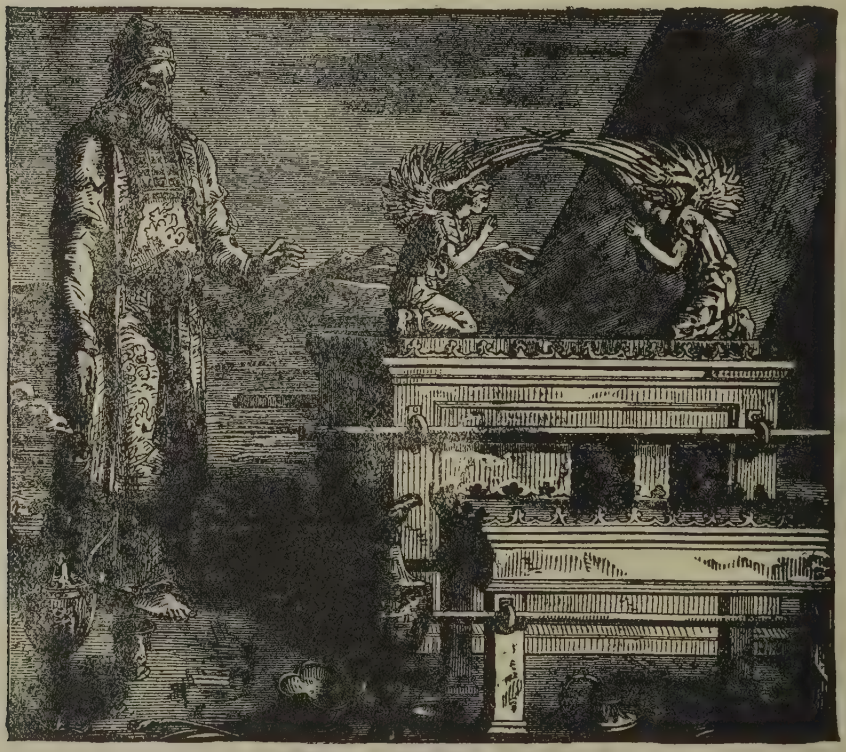
QUESTIONS.

Where had the children of Israel come from? Who was leading them? Where did God tell Moses to take them? What wonderful sight did they see on Mount Sinai? What did they hear? Who spoke out of the cloud? How many Commandments did God speak? On what did God write them? To whom did He give them? Why must they be kept?

More About Moses on the Mountain.

"The Lord talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire."—Deut. v: 4.

"Did Moses talk to God, Auntie?" asked Clara. "Yes," answered Aunt Charlotte; "the Bible tells us that



HIGH PRIEST IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES.

when the lightning and thunder and the loud voice of the trumpet came forth from the cloud on Mount Sinai, and God had spoken the Ten Commandments, He called to Moses to come up and speak with Him in the cloud.

How wonderful it must have been! Moses was the only man that ever spoke so near to God.

"And, as I said before, God gave him two blocks of stone written with the Ten Commandments—written with God's own finger. Then God told him to make a chest to keep them in. It was to be made of wood, with gold all over it; and two figures of cherubims were to be one on each side. This chest was to be called the Ark of the Covenant. And it was to be put into a square room, inside a tent, that was to be made with curtains, and carried about with the Israelites. It was to be called the Tabernacle. And this was to be a very holy place. The children of Israel would say their prayers in front of the Tabernacle; but they were not to go into the place where the Ark was, because they were sinful, and God is holy. That place was to be called the Holy of Holies, and no one might go near it but the priests whom God chose and set apart to lead His worship. The first high priest, as I have told you, was to be Moses' brother Aaron; and he was to wear a beautiful dress when he ministered before God—a high cap with 'Holiness to the Lord' on it, a long, embroidered robe, edged with gold bells and pomegranates, and a blue scarf crossed over his breast; and in the middle a breast-plate, made of twelve precious stones, each carved with the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel, so that he might have them on his heart as he prayed to God. All this and much more God told Moses while he was on the Mount."

QUESTIONS.

What was given on Mount Sinai? Who spoke the Commandments? What were they written on? Where were they to be kept? What was the chest

called? Where was Moses to put the chest? What was the room called? Who might go near the Holy of Holies? Who was the first high priest? Who was Aaron? What was Aaron to wear? Why might not the people come near?

Moses' Long Stay on the Mountain.

"Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God."—Deut. vii:9.

"I expect Moses was very glad to get away quick from that place when he got done talking with God," said Willie. "Not at all," answered Aunt Charlotte; "when Moses went up into the awful cloud upon Mount Sinai, he stayed there forty days.

"But all the Israelites below were impatient. They could not think what had become of Moses; and though they had so lately heard God's own voice speaking to them, they would not wait, as they had been told to do. They cried out that they wanted something instead of Moses, whom they had lost. So they took all their gold ear-rings and melted them, and made an image of a golden calf. And then these foolish, wicked people began to feast and dance, and worship this golden idol.

"Moses was coming down Mount Sinai with the two Tables of the Commandments in his hands. And first he heard a shouting and singing; then he saw the people leaping and dancing, and the great golden idol standing in the midst. Then he was sure it was of no use to bring them the Commandments if they minded them no better. So he took the two tables of stone and threw them out of his hand, and broke them to pieces.

"Then he went down and severely punished the worst of the Israelites for having disobeyed the Com-

mandments. And he broke the golden calf to pieces, and ground it to powder."

"Who got the gold pieces of the calf?" said Willie. "And then they did not have any more ear-rings, and they did not have any more tables of stone written by God, did they?" said little Anna. "Yes, dear; they had the Tables of the Law. I'll tell you next Sunday how they got new tables of stone with the laws on them."

QUESTIONS.

Where had Moses gone? What was God going to give him? Who were left below? What did the Israelites want? What did they take off? What did they make of their ear-rings? What did Moses do to the Tables of the Law? Why did he throw them down? What did he do with the golden calf?

NOSE-JEWELS WORN IN THE EAST.

Fifteenth Sunday.

How Moses Saw God.

"I prayed therefore unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, destroy not Thy people and Thine inheritance."—Deut. ix: 26.

THE GIVING OF THE COMMANDMENTS.

"LAST Sunday you heard how sadly the people of Israel sinned by making the golden calf, while Moses was up in the mountain, and how he punished them and broke the tables of stone.

"Then he said he would go and pray to God to forgive them, and try them again. So up he went, over the rough rocks of Mount Sinai, and into the cloud again, where he had spoken with God before. And he prayed with all his might that God would not cast off His people, though they had been so wicked, but would give them

again the Commandments on their tables of stone. And God listened to Moses, and promised to give them the Commandments again. Then Moses made a great request: he said to God, 'I pray Thee, show me Thy glory.' But God said, 'Thou canst not see My face, for there shall no man see Me and live.' But Moses was to come up the mountain the next day, and bring with him two blocks of stone, and then God would let him see as much of His glory as he could bear.

"On the next day Moses went up the mountain again, and took with him the two tables of stone. And the Lord came down in the cloud; and Moses was in the cleft of the rock, where he could see a small part of the glory, and hear the Lord's voice proclaim before him, 'The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.' Then, indeed, Moses bowed his head and worshiped. No man ever came so close to God as Moses, with whom God spoke face to face, as a man speaketh to his friend.

"Moses stayed forty days and forty nights up in the mountain again this time. And God again wrote the Commandments upon the two tables of stone, and allowed the Israelites to try again to keep them. When Moses came down from being in converse with God, the glory was still about his face. It was all shining like the sun, and was so bright that the Israelites could not fix their eyes on it; and he was obliged to put a veil over his face, because they could not bear to look at it. Was ever living man so favored, and brought into such glory?"

QUESTIONS.

Where did Moses go to pray for the forgiveness of the Israelites? What did Moses venture to ask God to show him? But what can no one do? Where

was Moses placed? What passed by? What voice did he hear? How was Moses more honored than any man? How long did he stay in the mountain? What did God give him again? How did his face look when he came down? What did he do to hide his face? How came his face to be so glorious?

Two Dangerous Idols.

"Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear Him."—Deut. xiii: 4.

"Did the children of Israel worship any more golden calves, Auntie?" asked Willie. "No; but they were in great danger of worshiping other idols just as bad. I will tell you of them.

"God wanted the Israelites, when they should come into the good land where they were going, to be very careful not to learn to worship idols. For idols were no gods at all, only wood and stone, and could not hear them pray, nor give them what they wanted. Besides, the people round them had very frightful ways of trying to please their false gods. They had one called Moloch, made of brass, and they used to offer poor little children up in sacrifice to him, and make a noise with drums and trumpets, that no one might hear their cries. There was another god called Baal, to whom they set up great images, and feasted in his honor; and a goddess, whom

MOLOCH.

they called the queen of heaven, or Ashtoreth. Women used to offer cakes to her, and dance in honor of her, for they thought she sent the moon to shine on them.

"Now, the Israelites were not to worship any of these false gods. They were to remember how they heard the only true God speaking to them out of the cloud upon the mountain, and telling them, 'I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt have no other gods but Me.' And God told them that if they would worship Him and serve Him all should go well with them, and they should be happy and blessed. But if they went after these false idols, all would go ill with them, and there would be only sorrow and misery. You see, God was preparing the children of Israel against the danger of bad company. We are almost sure to do like those we associate with. That is the reason God gave them a commandment to worship Him only."

ASHTORETH, THE PHILISTINE GODDESS.

QUESTIONS.

What three idols did the people of the country worship? What did they do in honor of Moloch? What did they do in honor of Baal? What did they call Ashtoreth? What did they think she sent them? Who made the moon? What would happen if the children of Israel worshiped God? What would happen if they worshiped idols? Say the First Commandment. Say the Second

The False Spies and Disobedient People.

"It is a people that do err in their heart and they have not known My ways."—Psalm xcv: 10.

"Did they all soon get into the promised land and throw away old Moloch and Baal and all the idols and worship God?" asked little Anna. "Not for a long, long time," said Auntie.

"After the Commandments were given the Israelites went along very nicely on their journey. The Ark, or chest where the Commandments on their two tablets of stone were kept, was carried before them; and God still showed that He was with them, for He made a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night go along with them, and rest on it. After a few weeks, when they came near the land of Canaan, twelve men were sent on to see it. They came back, bringing such a great bunch of grapes that two had to carry it between them on a pole! But ten of the men said that the land was full of strong cities and very strong men, and they should never be able to win it, but would all be killed. Only two good men, Joshua and Caleb, recollected that there could be no fear, for God had promised to save them and bring them in. But the people sided with the others, and all cried and said that they would go back to Egypt, and threw stones at Moses and Aaron when they wanted to quiet them.

"Then God showed His glory, and would have cut them all off in a moment if Moses had not prayed for them. But He said none of those who had said they would not go into the good land should go. They were to stay forty years longer in the dismal wilderness, till all the grown-up men, except Joshua and Caleb, should be

dead, and their children be grown up in their stead. Then their children who had learned to trust God and do as He bade, should be the ones to go in and live in the promised land."

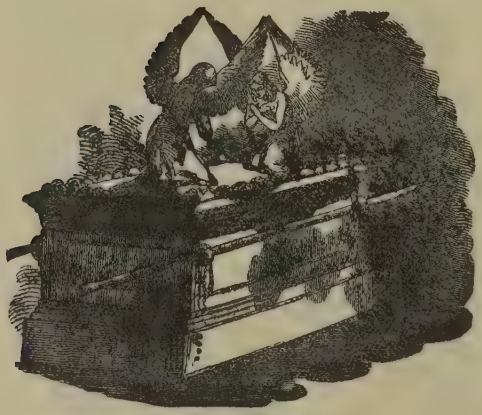
THE SPIES RETURNING WITH A CLUSTER OF GRAPES.

"That was a terrible punishment for disobedience," said Clara. "Yes," answered Aunt Charlotte; "but it is much worse for us than it was for them if we do not

follow God's commands. They lost an earthly home, where they could live but a short time. We lose an everlasting home in heaven."

QUESTIONS.

How did the Israelites know which way to go in the wilderness? What was in the Ark? Whom did Moses send to look at the land? What did these men bring back? But what did they say of the country? Who were afraid? Why was it wrong to be afraid? Who only were not afraid? What were the people ready to do? How were they to be punished? How long were they to stay in the wilderness? Who would die? Who would grow up to go in? Who were the two good brave men? What was promised to Joshua and Caleb?



ARK OF THE COVENANT.

Sixteenth Sunday.

God's Anger at Moses.

"They angered Him also at the waters of strife."—Psalm cvi: 32.

ALTAR OF OFFERING.

"BUT good Moses went into the happy land, didn't he, Auntie?" said Anna. "No," said Aunt Charlotte, "and I'll tell you why he could not.

"After all the forty years in the wilderness the children of Israel were quite close to their home in the promised land again. There was only the river Jordan between them and the hills and valleys there. But Moses was not to go with them. Once, you remember, Anna, when the people were crying out for more water in the wilderness, and God told Moses to command the stream to come out of the rock, Moses was so hot with anger that he did not attend carefully to what God commanded. He said, 'Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?' And he struck the rock with his rod, instead of speaking to it. The water came out, as it had done before; but Moses had been so hasty that he had not thought how to obey God exactly, and so he was not to be allowed to lead the

people in as a great warrior, lest he should fail again. God was not angry with him, but had forgiven him; only he had his punishment because he had done wrong.

"Joshua, the good, true spy you heard about in the last lesson, was to lead the people instead of Moses. So before Moses was taken away he called Joshua and all the chief men of each tribe and put them in mind of all that God had done for them, and warned them very solemnly that if they broke their promise and did not keep the Commandments God would punish them—first a little, and then more and more, and would even cast them out of the good land at last. For, remember, God always keeps His promises; and as surely as He gives the good all that is best for them, so surely will He punish those who turn from Him."

"Poor Moses, I'm so sorry for him; he had been bad just only once, and the Lord ought to have let him off," said Anna. "But," answered Aunt Charlotte, "one sin is enough to destroy us. It is terrible to disobey God."

QUESTIONS.

Where were the Israelites now? How long had their journey lasted? What lay between them and the land of Canaan? Who had led them? But what displeasing thing had Moses done? What could he not do now? Who was to lead them in? What did Moses tell the Israelites they must be careful to do? What had they promised to keep? What would happen if they broke the promise? What would happen if they kept the promise? What promises have we made?

Moses' Death and Burial.

"So Moses the servant of the Lord died."—Deut. xxxiv: 5.

"I've been thinking about Moses, Auntie, ever since this morning, and trying to see why God did not

forgive him, and let him lead the children of Israel into the promised land," said Clara.

"Did God kill him right off?" asked Willie. "No," answered Aunt Charlotte; "God did forgive him; but He had to teach the children of Israel that they must obey Him, and He took Moses for an example. Besides, Moses was to have his rest above instead of in the land of promise. But first God told him that he might see the land. So he went up into a very high hill; and there God made him able to see all the home of his people—the snowy hill of Hermon, and Mount Lebanon, where the cedar trees grow, and the hills and valleys where Abraham had wandered and Isaac and Jacob had lived, and which he had hoped for all his life; and green fields, and corn-fields, and vineyards, on to the great blue sea stretching out to the westward. That was where his people were to live; but there was a better home for Moses. Nobody saw him any more after he went up into the mountain. There he died, and the Lord buried him,

THE EMBLEMS ON THE STANDARDS OF THE TRIBES.

and no one knows of his grave. The children of Israel wept and mourned for him many days, expecting him to return."

"After all," said Clara, "he was greatly honored in God's burying him. Did God ever bury any one else?"

"No," said Aunt Charlotte.

QUESTIONS.

But what did God allow Moses to see? Where was he to go? What did God show him there? What kind of place was it? Where had he brought the people from? Who was to lead them in? What was to happen to Moses? Did any one ever see him again? What does no one know? Why do we think so much of Moses? Where did he speak with God? Was he not the greatest man we have yet heard about?

Joshua Made Captain.

"Be strong and of a good courage."—Joshua i: 6.

"Did the children of Israel find out Moses was dead?" asked Clara. "Yes," answered Aunt Charlotte; after Moses had gone out of sight on the mountain God Himself told Joshua that Moses was dead, and that he must lead the children of Israel into the good land God had promised them. Moses had laid his hands on Joshua's head, and God's Holy Spirit had come to help him to see what was right and to lead the people. He must be strong and brave, and do all that God commanded, and then he would be quiet sure to be able to drive away all the strange people out of the land, and make a home for the people in the land that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had loved so well.

"All the people promised they would do as Joshua bade them. So he was their captain instead of Moses."

YOUNG KING JOSIAH READING THE LAW.

"And he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant."—II Kings XXIII, 2.

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion."—Psalm CXXXVII, 1.

"Did he take them right into the promised land?" asked Willie. "I hope they did not turn back again."

"I will tell you about that in our next lesson," said Aunt Charlotte, with a smile, and then she asked the following

QUESTIONS.

Who was the old leader of the children of Israel? Where had Moses led them from? Where were they going? What became of Moses on the mountain? Whom did God make captain instead of Moses? What did God tell Joshua? What did God promise him? What is the way to be helped by God? What were the Israelites to be helped to do? Who were to be driven away? Why did the children of Israel wish to live in the land of Canaan? What did all the people promise?

SOLDIER IN FULL ARMOR.

Seventeenth Sunday.

Crossing Over Jordan.

"Ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the Lord your God giveth you."—Deut. xii: 10.

"NOW," said Willie, as they all gathered around Aunt Charlotte the seventeenth Sunday morning in the year, "we are going to hear about Joshua leading the Israelites into Canaan."

"Yes," said Clara, "but there was a difficulty in the way, brother. There was a river to cross. How do you suppose they got over that?"

"In a ferry-boat," answered Willie, promptly.

"Why, brother, there were more than a million of them," laughed Clara, "and they did not have a single ferry-boat."

"I know," said little Anna; "they went over on the bridge."

Aunt Charlotte smiled and began. "I will explain it to you, my dears. After the children of Israel had been forty years living in the wilderness, God led them into the beautiful land He had promised them. But before they could come in they had, as Clara said, to get across a river—a deep river, with rocks on each side and a stony bottom to it, and the water running very fast

indeed. The name of the river was Jordan. There was no bridge to go over, and no boat to row them across; and not only all the strong men, but all the women and little children had to get over it!

"But nobody need be afraid when God is helping him. God told them what to do. The priests, who were like clergymen to them, were to take the Ark—that is, the chest where the two tables of the Ten Commandments were kept—and were to walk down into the river without being afraid. And they were brave men; they believed what God told them, and went down into the swift stream in no fear of being drowned. And behold! as soon as their feet touched the water it stopped flowing and stood still. No more water came down, and all the hosts of the children of Israel went straight over the bottom of the river with dry feet. The priests stood up in the middle all the time the others were going over, and when everyone was safe on the other side they came after them; and by and by the river came rushing down again in its own place, for it was God who had commanded it to stop short and make a dry place for His people to pass over. And so they came into the land of Canaan that He had promised them so long."

"Why, that was like the Red Sea did, wasn't it?" said little Anna. "Yes," answered Auntie, with an approving nod of the head. "I am glad you remember so well."

"Did any more waters divide for them?" asked Willie. "Yes," answered Aunt Charlotte, "read the second chapter of the second book of Kings, and you will find that the prophets Elijah and Elisha both divided the waters of Jordan on the day Elijah ascended to heaven.

"And now that we have the children of Israel out of the wilderness into the promised land, I will ask you a few questions not in our lesson to see how well you remember the principal things that happened."

QUESTIONS.

How long did the children of Israel stay in the wilderness? Where were they going? What had they to eat? What had they to drink? What had God given them on Mount Sinai? What were the Ten Commandments written on? Where were the two stones put? Who carried this Ark? What had the Israelites to go over? What was the name of the river? How do we cross rivers? But had they a bridge or a boat? Who was taking care of them? What did God tell the priests to do? Were the priests afraid to go into the river? Why not? What happened when the priests' feet touched the water? Who made the water stop running? Who went over? Where did they come to? Who had promised them the land?

The Walls of Jericho Fall Down.

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down."—Hebrews xi: 30.

"Well, that was very strange about that river dividing and letting the people walk over," said Willie.

"Yes. Wouldn't it have been fun, brother, if we could have seen all those little boys and girls walking in the deep place, and the big wall of water standing back 'cause God wouldn't let it run on them?" said little Anna.

"I will tell you about something else just as strange to-day," said Aunt Charlotte.

"After the Israelites had come into the land of Canaan there was a strong walled city before them, and its name was Jericho. They could not go any farther till

they had taken the city. But God was going to show that He fought for them. So He told them not to fight, but that every day for a whole week the priests should take the Ark of the Covenant on their shoulders and walk round the outside of the walls of the town. Seven priests were to go in front, blowing on trumpets made of rams' horns; but nobody else was to make any noise. So they did one day, and nothing happened. Joshua bade them do it the next day. Perhaps some of the Israelites wondered and were impatient, but they had to go on the next day still; and after that the Ark was carried round once every day for a whole week.

BLOWING OF TRUMPET MADE OF RAM'S HORN.

"On the seventh day Joshua told the priests that God would have them go round not once but seven times. And so they did; and then, at last, on the seventh day, Joshua said, 'Shout!' Then all of the people shouted, and the priests blew their trumpets, and then—oh, great wonder—the walls of Jericho fell down flat, and the people went in and took the city. So the Lord fought for Israel."

Willie whistled right out with astonishment, and said he would rather have seen that than the crossing of the Jordan or the Red Sea.

QUESTIONS.

Where were the Israelites now? Who was their leader? What city were they come to? What did they want to do? Were they to fight? But what was to be carried round? What was the Ark? What was in it? Who carried the Ark? Who went in front of them? How many days did they go on? How many times did they carry the Ark round at first? How often on the seventh day? What were the priests to do? What were the people to do? What happened then? Who had conquered Jericho?

Joshua's Victories and Death.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."—Joshua xxiv: 15.

"Aunt Charlotte," began Willie, "did they go to other cities and blow their rams' horns and make the walls fall down?" "No," answered Aunt Charlotte, "God only

FRUIT OF PALESTINE.

helped them this way in their first battle, to show them that he could make them conquer their enemies with anything; even the blowing of horns would win them victory if God told them to use them. They must always do just as He said; then they would always be successful. And

the lesson for us is that in fighting sin and temptation we must do as God tells us and we will always be victorious.

"After the victory over Jericho God gave the children of Israel more victories. None of the heathen people could stand before them. They took their towns, and drove the heathen out, and had the fields and gardens and houses for their own. Then Joshua was to divide the land among them, and fix what cities each tribe should have for its own.

"All the chief men of each tribe came to him, and the Lord taught him how to fix the places for them to dwell in. The children of the good Joseph had the very best lot of all, as his father, Jacob, had wished. It was just in the middle of the country, and was full of beautiful corn land. Two tribes and a half lived on the other side of the river Jordan, on the edge of the desert, but where there was fine grass for their cattle. And the tribe of Judah had a very hilly, rocky part of the country; but they loved it, because it was where Abraham had lived and now lay buried. And all up the hills they planted vines, where fine large grapes grew, and in the valleys were plenty of corn-fields. All over the country people had each man his own house, with his vine and his fig-tree to shelter it, and olive trees in his garden, and a field to grow corn in, and hillsides near, where he might keep his cows, goats and sheep. And the rocks and the hollow trees were full of wild bees' nests; so that indeed they found it, as Moses had told them, a land of corn and wine—a land that flowed with milk and honey; and they were very glad to be there, and to rest after their long wandering in the wilderness.

"After they had had a quiet rest their first sorrow

came. It was that their brave leader Joshua had grown old, and felt himself near his death. So he called all the chief men together, and told them over again how much God had done for them; and that if they would serve Him and keep His Commandments all would go well with them. 'As for me and my house,' he said, 'we will serve the Lord.' And all the people promised, too. They said they would serve the Lord, and would not go after other gods, but would keep His Commandments. And after that good old Joshua died."

"Then what did they do without him?" asked little Anna. "Did they be good, like Joshua told them?"

"No," answered Auntie, "and I'll tell you, in the next lesson, what they did."

QUESTIONS.

Where were the children of Israel now? Who had promised the land to them? Whom did they drive out? How was it settled where they were to live? Who had the best part? What had Joseph done that was good? Who went beyond the Jordan? What part did Judah have? What grows there? What choice plants grew in the land? What sort of place had they been told it would be? Who was grown old? What did Joshua tell the Israelites? What was the way for them to be happy?

Eighteenth Sunday.

Worshiping Idols Again.

"The journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honor."—Judges iv: 9.

"NOW tell us what badness they did," began Anna. "I wish they had been good."

HEBREW IDOLS.

"I should have thought they would have been good after all God had done," said Clara.

"Yes," rejoined Aunt Charlotte, "but do you know they were like many Christians are now, who forget their promises to God; and trouble is sure to come whenever a Christian does this. Certainly, when the Israelites had come to live in the beautiful land that God had promised them, they ought to have loved and served Him, and thanked Him for all His goodness. But, no! They liked worshiping false gods; and they made idols to pray to, cut out of wood and stone, and they learnt wicked ways.

"Then God was angry with them; and He punished

them by sending cruel nations to conquer them, to burn their houses, to steal their children, and drive away their cattle. Then they would be sorry, and pray to God again; and He had pity, and sent some brave man to defend them. To-day we hear how sadly they were used by a fierce man named Sisera, who had nine hundred war chariots of iron to go into battle with. His people used to shoot at the Israelites at the wells when they came to draw water; and nobody dared to go along the high-roads, but only through the paths, for fear of being killed."

"Served 'em right for going back on their promises," said Willie.

"Yes, brother," answered Clara, "and we must remember if we disobey God we are sure to be punished."

"Right again, my child," said Aunt Charlotte; "all this Old Testament history has its lessons for us now."

QUESTIONS.

How ought the Israelites to have behaved? What had God given them? Whom should they have worshiped? But what did they worship? How did God punish them? What was the name of the cruel man who ill-used them? How many chariots had Sisera?

Two Very Brave Women.

"The Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman."—Judges iv:9.

"Did old Sisera ever get whipped?" asked Willie.

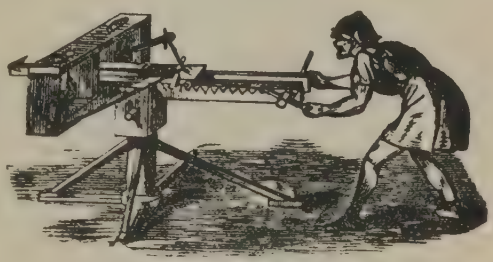
"Yes," answered Aunt Charlotte.

"What brave general whipped him?" asked Clara.

"I will tell you how it came about," began Aunt Charlotte. "At last God spake to a good, brave woman named Deborah, and told her to send for a man named Barak, who should lead the Israelites to fight with Sisera.

She sent for Barak, and told him what God had said. But Barak was afraid to go alone. He said he must have Deborah with him. He ought to have known that, if God sent him, he was sure to be safe and to succeed.

"Deborah told him that since he wished it she would go with him, but that the journey should not be to his honor, for the Lord would sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And it turned out as Deborah said. Barak won a great battle and drove the enemies away, so that they did not hurt the children of Israel again for forty years. But he did not meet with Sisera in the battle, nor get the honor of killing him. Sisera fled out of the battle, and was killed after all by a woman, whose name was Jael. Barak lost all the honor, because he would not do just as he was told, but was afraid without Deborah, just as if God could not help him better than Deborah could.



ANCIENT WAR-ENGINE.

"Now let us turn to the fifth chapter of Judges and read the beautiful song that Deborah made to thank God for having given her the victory that saved His people."

Aunt Charlotte turned and read the song, and the children listened attentively.

QUESTIONS.

What was the name of the brave woman who went to Barak? What was Barak to do? Who did Barak say must come with him? Why was this wrong of Barak? What happened in the fight? Did Barak kill Sisera? Who did kill Sisera? Why was not Barak allowed to kill Sisera? Whom ought he to have trusted to? Who will always help us if we are not afraid to do as we are told?

Gideon's Wonderful Battle.

"They chose new gods; then was war in the gates."—Judges v:8.

"Now they had conquered their great enemy, the children of Israel settled down to be good and happy, didn't they, Aunt Charlotte?" asked Clara.

"I wish I could say yes, my child," said Aunt, "for I know you wish they had done so. But the truth is, as I have told you, Christians often now do wrong and get punished for it, and then God helps them out, and just so it was with the Jews. The Israelites never kept long from sinning and setting up idols; and, by and by, God let a set of robbers, called Midianites, come in and burn their crops and houses, drive away their cattle and steal their children for slaves.

THE ANGEL APPEARS TO GIDEON.

"Then the Israelites were sorry, and prayed to God to save them. And God had pity on them, and sent His angel to a man named Gideon, to tell him that he was to fight for the Israelites.

"A great many men came to Gideon; but the Israelites were to be shown that it was as easy for God to save them with few men as with many. So He bade

Gideon send home all but three hundred men. And Gideon believed and sent them home, and kept only the three hundred.

"Then at night he took these men, and gave them each a trumpet and an earthen pitcher, with a lamp inside the pitcher, so that the light could not be seen. He took a hundred with him, and sent the other two hundred another way, creeping quietly along till they came to the place where the Midianites had set up their tents and were all lying asleep among the cattle they had stolen. There they lay, and never heard Gideon and his men coming till they were close to the camp, the three parties on three sides. Then, all of a sudden, every one of the Israelites broke his pitcher and let his lamp shine, and blew his trumpet, and shouted, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!'

"THE MEN BLEW THEIR TRUMPETS WITH A MIGHTY NOISE."

"The Midianites were awakened out of their sleep to see the lamps on three sides of them in the dark, and to hear the trumpets and the cries. They were very much frightened, and quite wild with fear. They all began to beat down one another, for they did not know friends from enemies. A great many were killed, and the rest

fled away, leaving all that they had stolen behind them. And so God delivered the Israelites from the Midianites by the hand of Gideon, and gave them peace again."

QUESTIONS.

What made the Israelites meet with troubles? Whom ought they to have worshiped? But whom did they worship? What happened then? Who were the next people that ill-used them? What did they do when they were punished? Whom did God send to save them? How many men was Gideon to have with him? What did all the men carry? Where did they go? Into how many parties were they divided? What did the Midianites hear? What did they see? What did they begin to do? What became of those that were not killed?

Nineteenth Sunday.

Little Samuel.

"Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child."—1 Sam. ii: 18.

"AUNTIE, weren't there any little boys and girls then? Please tell us about some children. I don't like so much about wars," pleaded little Anna. as they gathered on Sunday morning.

"SHE CALLED HIS NAME SAMUEL."

"All right, little curly locks," said Aunt Charlotte, with a pat on the head. "I will tell you this morning about a splendid little fellow.

"There was a very good woman, named Hannah, and she grieved because she had no children. Whenever she came with her husband to God's holy place, she used to kneel, and pray with all

her heart to God that He would let her have a son; and she promised that if she had one she would lend him to the Lord all the days of his life. At last God granted her prayer and gave her a little son, and she named him Samuel. She was very glad when he was born, and she thanked God and sang a hymn of praise for her dear little child. But she had promised to lend him to the Lord all his life; and she kept her promise. As soon as little Samuel was old enough to be without her, she took him to the holy place, that was instead of a church, and gave him to wait upon the Lord. He lived with the high priest, whose name was Eli, and was taught by him.

"Eli was a very old man, and his sons used to behave very badly, but Samuel was always good and obedient to him, and used to wait upon him, and help him when he served God in the holy place. Samuel wore a little white linen dress, like the priests; and when his mother came to see him she used to bring him a little coat. She had five more children afterward, three sons and two daughters. I am sure you like to think of the little child in his white dress, ministering before God in His beautiful holy place. But only think! You can be like Samuel. Though you live at home, you go to church and can serve God there, if you kneel and stand and sit quietly at the proper times, and try to do good to others. And if you are obedient God will love you as He loved Samuel."

"I like little Samuel the best of all," said Anna. "Is that all about him?"

"No," said Auntie, "and I will tell you how God spoke to little Samuel. Then I have a surprise for you. I have arranged for us to go to the village to Sunday-

school so long as the weather is fine. This is May, and hereafter while we like it we will have only one talk each Sunday, and that in the morning."

"Oh," said Anna, clapping her hands, "I'll be so glad. But now, before we stop, we are going to hear about God talking to Samuel."

"Yes," began Aunt Charlotte. "Samuel was very good and holy, and God blessed him and loved him. One night, when every one was gone to bed, but the lamp in the holy place was not yet gone out, Samuel heard a voice calling to him, 'Samuel!' He sprang up at once, for he thought that Eli had called him, and he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, for thou didst call me.' But Eli answered, 'I called not, my son; lie down again;' and Samuel went back to his bed.

"Then again came the voice calling to him, 'Samuel!' and again he thought it was Eli's call. He was not lazy or fretful at being roused out of his sleep, but he ran at once to Eli, and again said, 'Here I am, for thou didst call me.' But Eli sent him back to his bed again; and there again he heard the call, 'Samuel!'

"Patiently he once more rose and came to the old man, but this time Eli knew that it must have been no other than God's own voice speaking to the child. So he bade Samuel go back, and next time he heard the voice to say, 'Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth.'

"And so Samuel did. Again his name was called, and he made answer, 'Speak; for Thy servant heareth.'

"And God spoke to him in the still night, and told him to give Eli a fresh warning of the sad things that were coming on him and on his sons. Samuel was forced to tell Eli all in the morning, sad and mournful as it

was. He was afraid and grieved to have such things to say, but he told the truth, and Eli was too good a man to be angry with him, and only said, 'It is the Lord; let Him do what seemeth Him good.'

"And, after that, God often made His will known to Samuel, and blessed him, and all Israel knew that Samuel was God's own prophet. Think of the great honor and blessing of having God so often speaking to him! But we have that blessing, too. God is nearer to a little Christian child than He was to Samuel; for the Holy Spirit speaks in a Christian child's heart, and tells him to be good and dutiful, and to think of God, and pray with all his heart. And that is better than even being a prophet like Samuel. Only we must take great care to attend to that voice, or it will leave off, and then we shall get worse and worse, like those bad sons of poor old Eli."

"SPEAK, LORD, FOR THY SERVANT HEARETH."

"Wasn't Samuel a good, good boy!" said Anna, as Aunt Charlotte paused.

"What did Eli's bad sons do?" asked Willie.

"I will tell you, and then we must stop for this time," said Aunt Charlotte. "They were very wicked and God punished them; and old Eli had great trouble.

"God had helped the Israelites again and again, but they would not leave off their wickedness, and at last He punished them still more. There came up a nation to make war upon them, fiercer than any before, called the Philistines. Then the Israelites fancied that if they took the Ark of the Covenant out into the battle with them they would get the victory, as they had done when Joshua conquered the land. But God had never bidden them take the Ark. He had commanded that it should stay in its place at Shiloh. They did not heed this, but took it out into the camp, and all the people shouted for joy when it was brought, with the two priests, Hophni and Phinehas, Eli's sons, to take care of it. When the Philistines heard the shout they said that the gods of Israel were come, and that they must fight all the more bravely. And they did. God would not help His people because of their self-will, so He let them be beaten by the Philistines, and Hophni and Phinehas were killed, and the holy Ark of God was taken by these heathens. And when poor old Eli, the high priest, heard the sad news, he was so much shocked that he fell down backward and broke his neck and died.

"God still showed His power, for when the Philistines put the Ark into the temple of one of their false gods the idol fell down and was broken; and wherever it was taken the people fell sick, till at last they sent it back to the Israelites. But it never came back to Shiloh; it was hidden in a lonely house in the woods. And the Philistines were strong and the Israelites were very weak and miserable, because they had been so very disobedient."

"So Eli and his sons lost their lives because they disobeyed God, did they, Aunt?" asked Clara.

"Yes," said Aunt Charlotte. "We see what a terrible thing the sin of disobedience is. We should ask God every day to show us our duty and help us to do His will."

QUESTIONS.

What was the name of the woman we hear of to-day? What did she wish for? What did she do to obtain her wish? What was her son's name? Where did Hannah bring her little son? Who took care of Samuel? How did Samuel behave? What did he wear and what had he to do? What did Samuel's mother bring him every year? Who was the high priest? What did Samuel hear? Who did he think was calling? What did he do? What did Eli say? How often did this happen? Was Samuel cross at being called so often? What did Eli know at last? What did he tell Samuel to answer? What did the voice tell Samuel? Whose voice speaks to us? What people came to fight with the Israelites? Why did God let any one hurt the Israelites? What did the Israelites think would help them to fight? Why ought they not to have taken it? Who were killed and what happened to Eli when he heard the Ark was taken?

Twentieth Sunday.

Saul Made King.

"Behold, the Lord hath set a king over you."—1 Sam. xii: 13.

"ANY more about Eli and his sons?" asked Willie.

"No, brother, they were dead. Don't you remember?" said Clara.

"Yes, but Samuel wasn't," said Anna. "What did he do?"

"Well," answered Aunt Charlotte, "Samuel was made judge in Eli's place, but the people grew tired of judges and said they wanted a king like the other nations had. God did not want them to have a king, but they begged for one, and God finally told Samuel to let them have a king, and this is how they got him.

"There was a young man named Saul, who was very tall and strong. His father kept a number of asses; for,

in the land of Israel, people rode on asses instead of horses. One day all the asses were lost, and Saul and one of the servants went out to look for them. They went a long, long way, and never found the asses; and at night they came to a city, and there they found Samuel. Samuel was an old man now, and gray-headed; and he ruled over Israel, and every one honored and loved him, because he was so good and just. Saul was very much surprised when the great and good Samuel met him, and led him into the house, and put him in the chief place, and gave him a choice piece of meat that had been set apart for him. Saul could not think how Samuel knew anything about him. And he was still more surprised the next morning, for then Samuel came out of the city with him, and sent the servant on before. Then Samuel took some oil, and poured it on Saul's head, which was what was called anointing, and told him that God had chosen him to be king over all the people of Israel. Was not this wonderful news for him? And, you see, God had led him to Samuel to be made king, though he so little guessed what was going to happen when he set out to look for the asses. And God still makes everything happen, even the least thing; it is all for our good, even though we do not quite see why.

"So Saul was the first king of Israel; but he was only to be prosperous as long as he would take care to obey God."

"I don't think it was right in Saul to take old Samuel's place," said Willie.

"Yes, brother; but remember it was not Saul's fault. The people demanded a king, and God told Samuel to give them one," said Clara.

"Did Saul be good, like Samuel?" asked little Anna.

"He was at first," answered Aunt Charlotte, "and he had a very good son. I will tell you more of them both in the next lessons."

QUESTIONS.

Who was the first king of Israel? Did Saul expect to be a king? What did he set out from home to do? Where did he come? Who was in the city? What did you hear about Samuel last Sunday? What age was Samuel now? What did he give Saul? What surprised Saul? What did Samuel do to him the next day? What is anointing? What was he to do? But what must he do if he would get on well?

ARAB WATER-CARRIER.

Twenty-first Sunday.

Jonathan, Saul's Good, Brave Son.

"There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few."—1 Sam. xiv: 6.

ARMOR USED IN TIME OF SAUL.

"AUNT CHARLOTTE, what was Saul's good son's name?" asked Willie.

"Jonathan," said Aunt Charlotte. "He was not only good, but very brave and a great soldier, and I will tell you what he did.

"When Saul was first appointed king, the people were in great distress, for their enemies, the Philistines, had overrun the whole land, and held all the strong places, and were very hard to the Israelites. They would not even let a smith live among the Israelites, that they might not be able to have swords or spears made to use in fighting; and the Israelites had to go into the Philistines' country to get their axes and ploughshares made, and to sharpen the goads, or long sticks tipped with iron that they drove the oxen with.

"Nobody had a sword or spear but Saul and his good son Jonathan; all the rest of the people had nothing better to fight with than axes and mattocks and goads, and they were very much frightened, and came trembling after their new king.

"But Jonathan trusted in God, and he and one young man set out creeping along a rugged, steep path to see what the enemy were about, and by and by they came below the high rocky hill where the Philistines were encamped.

"One of the Philistines looked out and said, 'Behold, the Hebrews came forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves;' and he called out to Jonathan, 'Come up to us, and we will show you a thing.'

"Now, Jonathan knew, as he said to his friend, that the Lord can save as easily by few men as by many, so he was not afraid; and he and the other young man climbed up on their hands and knees till they came out among all the Philistine soldiers. Then they began to fight at once, and the Philistines were so surprised at these two men beginning to fight with them that they most likely thought all the others were behind, and they began to run away.

"The people in Saul's camp heard all the noise and went out to look, and saw the Philistines running away, so they went after them, and killed many, and drove them out of the land, and got free of them once more.

"So God blessed and helped the good Jonathan, because he trusted in Him; and Saul became a great king."

"I tell you, Jonathan was the bravest and the best fighter I ever heard of," said Willie.

"Yes; and that other man with him was brave, too, wasn't he, Auntie?" said little Anna.

"Saul was fortunate in having such a son," said Aunt Charlotte. "All good, brave boys are helpful to their parents.

QUESTIONS.

Who was Saul's good son? Who were the enemies of the Israelites? Why would not the Philistines let the Israelites have any smiths? What is a smith? What tools does a smith make? How did the Israelites get their iron tools? Who were the only ones that had swords and spears? Why were the people afraid? Who crept out to see the Philistines? What did Jonathan know that God could do? Where did he climb up? What happened? What became of the Philistines? What did God do for Jonathan and his father?

THE SYRIAN LION.

RUTH GLEANING IN THE FIELDS OF BOAZ.

Twenty-second Sunday.

Beautiful Ruth.

"Entreat me not to leave thee."—Ruth i: 16.

"WERE there any more young men as noble and brave as Jonathan, Auntie?" asked Clara.

"Yes; Jonathan had a friend even as brave and noble, and a great warrior; but before I tell you his name, I want to go back and tell you about his great-grandmother, Ruth."

"Oh, do," said little Anna.

"Well, I will begin when she was a young woman. Once, upon a fine summer day, a good man, named Boaz, went out into his corn-fields where his reapers were cutting down the wheat. 'The Lord be with you,' he said. 'The Lord bless thee,' they answered. Then he saw a young woman gleaning whom he had never seen before.

"RUTH WENT OUT INTO THE FIELDS TO GLEAN THE GRAIN."

He asked who she was. He heard that her name was Ruth, and she was a stranger and a widow. Then why had she come there? Because she could not bear to leave her husband's mother, Naomi, alone in her old age. She knew that if she stayed with Naomi she must be poor and forlorn, and away from all her friends; but she loved her mother-in-law so much that she said: 'Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee. . . . Where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; where thou diest, I will die, and there will I be buried.'

"When Boaz knew that Ruth was poor and a stranger, he told his reapers to drop some handfuls of corn in her way; and he told Ruth to stay among his young maidens, so that nobody might be rude to her, and that she might rest and eat among them when they rested in the heat of the day; for Boaz loved Ruth because she was very beautiful.

"Ruth carried home plenty of corn to her mother-in-law. And soon it was found out that Boaz was their nearest friend; and he married Ruth, and Naomi lived with them; and Ruth was no longer poor and a stranger, but was happy as a wife and mother in her beautiful home."

"That was a nice story about Ruth; but was that all about her?" said little Anna.

"Well, she lived very happily with Boaz, and by and by she had a great-grandson that was one of the greatest men in the world. Next Sunday I will tell you about him."

QUESTIONS.

What was the name of the mother of whom we hear to-day? Whose mother was she? But who was good to her? What did Ruth do for Naomi? Where did she go to glean? Who saw her? What did Boaz bid his men do? How did Boaz speak to Ruth? How was he kind to Ruth? What did she find out? Whom did Ruth marry? Why was Ruth so happy? Whom does God bless?

BETHLEHEM-JUDAH, THE HOME OF NAOMI.

Twenty-third Sunday.

King Saul Disobeys God.

"Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king."—1 Sam. xv: 23.

"ARE you going to tell us of Ruth's brave and good grandson to-day, Aunt Charlotte?" said Willie.

"Yes; but first I want to tell you of King Saul's wicked disobedience, for that is what brought him to ruin and gave Ruth's grandson a chance to become so great.

THE CATTLE PRESERVED BY SAUL.

"You have heard how God chose Saul to be king of Israel, and promised to help him if he would obey in all that God commanded him.

"Now, there were some cruel robbers that lived in the mountains, and used to fall upon peaceful people and kill them, and take their cows and sheep and camels and asses, and gold and silver, and all they had. So God sent a message by Samuel to Saul and his brave men to

destroy these cruel people; but God said that none of all their prey and riches that had been gained by such wicked ways was to be kept by His people; it was all to be made away with; they were to have none of it for themselves.

"They won the battle and killed the robbers, as they were sure to do when God helped them; but then when they saw such fine cattle and choice things they would not obey God, but went and took it all for themselves. They left only the poor and mean that they did not care for, and helped themselves to all they liked. And then, when Samuel came to meet them, Saul made as if he had done just what he was told, and said, 'I have obeyed the voice of the Lord.' But Samuel said, 'What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?'

"THEN SAMUEL POURED OIL ON DAVID'S HEAD."

"Saul wanted to make excuses; but it was not the first time he had been disobedient, and he was only frightened, he was not really sorry; so Samuel was obliged to tell

him, 'Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king.'"

"Was the kingdom taken away from Saul at once?" asked Clara.

"No, but the one to succeed him was chosen; and who do you suppose it was, Anna?"

"I don't know. Was it his good son, Jonathan?"

"No; it was Ruth's great-grandson. I will tell you.

"The hills that lie above Bethlehem have green slopes, where the sheep feed. There, one day, a flock was feeding, and a boy with blue eyes and shining hair watched them, and perhaps sang as he watched. He was the youngest of eight brothers, and all the rest had gone down to a great feast; for Samuel, the great prophet, was come to visit their father. But the youngest must stay out with the sheep. No one would want him. But see! a messenger is coming up the hill. He calls—David, you are wanted! The prophet had called for him. So the boy is obedient, and rises up to run down the hill. Perhaps he stopped to wash his face in the clear well of Bethlehem before he went up to the place of the feast—the same place where Boaz had brought his bride Ruth; for Jesse, David's father, was Ruth's grandson.

"There stood the prophet, with his long, white hair flowing down; and as soon as young David came in he stepped forward with a horn in his hand, and sweet-smelling oil of olives mixed with incense was flowing upon David's golden hair. He was the anointed of the Lord. In time to come he would be king, but he must wait long and patiently first.

"Yes. Each of his seven brothers had passed before Samuel—tall, goodly men—but God had spoken to Samuel

and forbidden him to choose them; for Samuel could see only their fine, handsome faces and figures, but God looked at their hearts, and knew they were proud men, who would soon have been as fierce and headstrong as Saul himself. So he had sent Samuel to choose the youngest and least thought-of of all Jesse's sons, and anoint him to be king of Israel. Yes; and, above all, to be the forefather of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

"Was David Christ's father?" asked Anna.

"No, my pet; but many hundred years after David, Jesus became one of his descendants; that is, he was a great, great, great, great, great grandson of King David."

QUESTIONS.

Whom did we hear of to-day who did not do as he was told? Who was Samuel? What was Saul told not to do? How far did he obey? Why was it wrong of Saul to keep the robbers' cattle and sheep? What did he say when Samuel came? Was this true? What did Samuel hear that showed that this was false? How was Saul to be punished? Who was sent to Bethlehem? Who used to live at Bethlehem? What was Samuel to do? Whose son was he to anoint? How many sons had Jesse? How many came to the feast? Where was David? Why were not his brothers anointed? Why was David chosen?

EGYPTIAN CHARIOT.

Twenty-fourth Sunday.

Young David Kills the Giant.

"I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel."—1 Sam. xvii: 45.

"TELL us some more about David," said Willie.

"I will tell you to-day a very heroic thing he did," answered Aunt Charlotte.

"Though King Saul had beaten the Philistines, still they used to come back again and try to conquer the Israelites.

DAVID GOES AGAINST THE GIANT.

"Once they came with an army, and Saul had an army, too. The Israelites were on one hill and the Philistines on another hill, and there was a valley between. Then out in front of the Philistines' camp came a giant named Goliath; for there really were giants then, and Goliath had three brothers as tall as himself.

DAVID MEETS GOLIATH.

"Goliath was nearly twice as tall as any man we ever saw, and he had a helmet on his head and armor on his breast, and an enormous spear, and a man carried a shield before him. He stood out and called to know if any Israelite would fight with him. Then, if Goliath conquered the Israelite, the Philistines should be lords over the Israelites; but if an Israelite conquered Goliath, then the Israelites should be lords over the Philistines.

"But nobody felt bold or strong enough to go out to fight with this great man; and day after day he came and walked up and down, and laughed the Israelites to scorn for not daring to come out, they who called themselves the servants of God.

"Now, David, after he was anointed king, went back to minding the sheep. But one day his father sent him with some bread and other things for his brothers in the army; for he had three brothers among King Saul's soldiers, and David was to see how they were, and bring his father word. When he came to the camp he saw the proud Goliath walking up and down boasting against the Israelites; he asked the soldiers about him, and said he would go out and fight him, and was so eager that at last they brought him to the king; and Saul asked him how it was that he, who was only a youth, could dare to think of fighting with a man of war like Goliath.

"David answered that, when he was keeping his flocks a lion and a bear had come and tried to take away a lamb. And God had made him strong to kill both the lion and the bear, and saved him from danger; and he trusted that in like manner God would help him if he fought with the giant.

"So Saul wanted to dress David in his own armor,

and David put it on, but it was too large for him, and he would not use it. All he did was to choose five smooth stones out of the brook and put them into his shepherd's bag. And he took his sling—a long strip of leather, the ends of which he used to hold in his hand to throw stones farther with when he wanted to drive beasts away from his flock. And with only his sling and these stones he went out to meet the giant.

DAVID MEETS GOLIATH.

"Goliath was fierce and angry when he saw such a boy, and he thought it was only laughing at him to send no better warrior to fight with him. But David said, 'Thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, . . . whom thou hast defied.'

"Then David took one of his stones and slung it out of his sling. It struck the very middle of the giant's forehead, and went deep in, and down fell Goliath. All his great strength was of no use to him, and David ran and stood upon him, and drew out his great sword from his side and cut off his head.

"All the other Philistines fled away, and David gave thanks to God for his great victory.

"By and by Saul and Jonathan were both dead. Jonathan was David's good friend, and he was killed in battle and I will tell you next Sunday how Saul's life was ended and David became king."

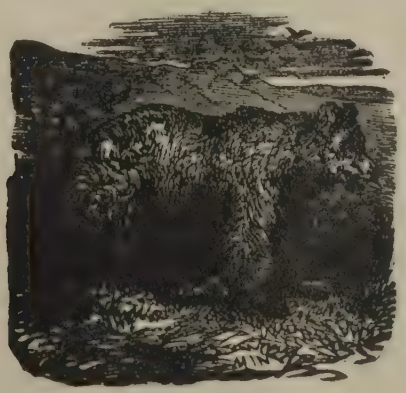
"I wish David and Jonathan could both have been kings," said little Anna. "One was brave as the other, wasn't he, Auntie?"

"And they both were strong and brave because they trusted in God," said Clara.

"Right again, dearest," said Aunt Charlotte, with a smile of approbation.

QUESTIONS.

Who were the enemies of the Israelites? Who was the giant? What did Goliath wear? What did he call the Israelites to do? Who was the only one that would come out to fight? What was David, and why was he not afraid? What had David killed before? What did David take with him? What did David say? Who helped David? How did David attack Goliath? What happened to Goliath? What did David do to him then? What became of the other Philistines? What did David come to be? What did God call David?



SYRIAN BEAR.

Twenty-fifth Sunday.

Saul's Death and David Made King.

"How are the mighty fallen."—2 Sam. i: 19.
"I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."—2 Sam. xii: 23.

"NOW David gets to be king, doesn't he?" asked Willie.

"Yes," began Aunt Charlotte. "The last thing that has to be told about Saul is very sad. You know he would not do as God bade him, but chose to go his own way. Then God forsook him, and left him to grow worse and worse. Then his enemies, the Philistines, came up against him, and his army came together on the hills to meet them. But God was not with Saul, so his men could not fight, and he was beaten back step by step up into his own hills, close to his home; and there, when he found he could go no farther, and that the Philistines would soon be upon him, he did the saddest thing of all—he threw himself on his own sword, that they might not take him alive. He did not quite kill himself; and when a young robber came by, trying to get garments and weapons from the dead bodies, the unhappy king begged for a death-blow as he lay. The robber gave him the last stroke, and then took the crown from his helmet and his bracelets, and brought them to

David to show that he was dead. The robber thought he should have a reward, but David put him to death for having dared to strike the king; and David grieved and mourned for Saul, who had once been a great and noble king. But he had come to this miserable end because he would have his own way and will.

"Then, when Saul was killed, David was anointed to be king; and he was a very good man, and served God with all his heart. So God blessed him and made him great and powerful."

"Did David have any little children?" asked Anna.

"Yes; King David had a little baby son whom he loved very much; and this child fell sick. While it was sick King David grieved for it, and prayed that it might be made well. But it was not God's will to make the little boy well, and he died. And then David was patient, and knew it was God's will; and he said, 'I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.'

"For David meant that one day he should die, and then his soul would go to be with his little son's soul in the happy place of rest; and by and by their bodies will rise again out of

DAVID MAKES HIS ESCAPE FROM SAUL.

their graves, and be joined to their souls again, and live for ever and ever. King David used to sing the Psalms to praise God; indeed, he first made most of them; and in one he says, 'My flesh also shall rest in hope.' That was, the hope that he should rise again from the dead, and always live in God's holy home in heaven. Heaven is the happy place where we all hope to meet and live by and by, and that is the comfort that good Christians have when death takes away friends whom they love."

"Well, Auntie, I think this story about the dead baby teaches two good lessons," said Clara. "First, that we should not grieve too much when God takes our loved ones to heaven, because they are so much happier; and it also shows us that David believed the body should rise from the dead."

"Yes," said Aunt Charlotte, "Christ's body rose from the dead and ascended, and Paul tells us we shall also rise as He rose."

QUESTIONS.

Who came out to fight against Saul? Where was Saul driven? Who came after Saul? What dreadful thing did Saul do? What did the robber take? To whom did he carry Saul's crown? What did David do to the robber? Who was to be king now? What did David do when his little boy was ill? How did David bear his death? Where did he hope to go to his little son? When would his soul go to his child's soul? When will their bodies rise? What do we hope to do?

THRESHING INSTRUMENT.

Twenty-sixth Sunday.

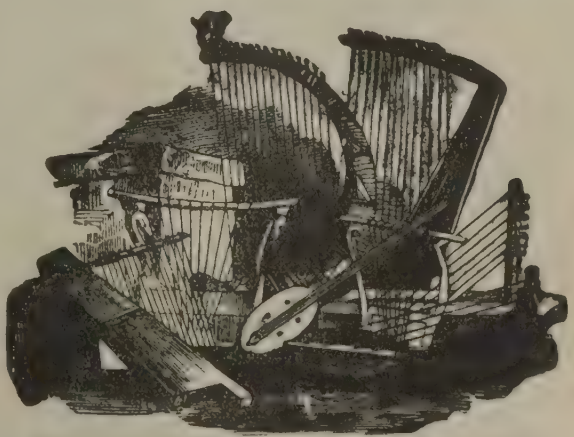
Absalom and Solomon.

"O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!"—2 Sam xix: 4.

"All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee."—1 Chronicles xxix: 14.

"I WAS so sorry David's little baby died, Auntie. Did he have any more children?" asked little Anna, as they took their seats the next Sunday.

"Yes, dear; good King David had more sons besides the little one who died. One was named Absalom. He grew up to be a very fine, handsome young man, and had most beautiful hair; but he was fierce and proud, and wanted to be king. Another was his wise son, Solomon.



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AT THE TIME OF DAVID.

"And when David was old this wicked Absalom gathered men together and drove his father away, that he might be king instead. Good King David had to go away, weeping and

ABSALOM'S FLIGHT.

barefoot, down the steep rocky pass, for fear of his wicked son; and cruel men called him names, and threw stones at him as he went, while Absalom was made to reign in his father's palace, and did all he pleased there. But God will not let wicked men prosper; and all David's faithful old soldiers came together to help him. They had a great battle with Absalom and his men, and Absalom was beaten and fled away on a mule.

SOLOMON ON HIS THRONE.

"But when he came into a wood his thick hair was caught in an oak tree, and he could not get it loose; and his mule went away and left him, still with his hair caught in the tree.

"Now, though Absalom had been so wicked, his father loved him still, and had begged all his men to take care not to hurt the young man Absalom. So when one of the men saw Absalom caught by the hair in a tree he would not hurt him, and only went and told Absalom's cousin, Joab, who was the captain of David's army.

"Joab had no pity; he thought Absalom richly deserved to die, and he was afraid the king would pardon him; so he went at once with three darts in his hand, and killed Absalom as he hung in the tree.

"King David was grieved to the heart. No words can say how sad he was to think that his son had died in

his sin, and never asked his pardon. He wept and cried aloud, 'O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!' It was not like his grief for the innocent little baby he had lost before; for Absalom had been a bad man, and for that there is no comfort.

"And when all the people came joyfully to bring King David home to his palace to be king again, still his heart mourned for his son Absalom."

"That's another bad boy who gave his father trouble," said Willie.

"Yes, and brought destruction on himself, as they always do," answered Clara, and then she repeated the Fifth Commandment.

"What about Solomon?" asked Willie. "Was he good or was he bad like Absalom?"

"It is said he loved to sit at his father's feet and learn wisdom," answered Aunt Charlotte. "He was a good boy and the delight of his father, and I will show you how he was honored.

"When David had grown to be a very old man, near to his death, he called all the princes of his people together at Jerusalem, and asked them all to bring offerings to help to build a beautiful house, to be a Temple to the Lord their God. So all the people brought what precious things they could, to add to what the king had prepared; and a great quantity was ready—all willingly offered. They brought gold, silver, brass, iron, and beautiful stones, or the wood of oaks and cedars, according to what they had or could give; and when David saw it he was very happy and glad, and offered it up to God, and prayed that God would give unto his son Solomon a

perfect heart, that he might serve God and keep His laws.

"The last thing King David did was to have his son, young Solomon, anointed to reign and then to show him to the people, and charge them to help him build the Temple for the Lord God. For he said Solomon was still very young, and the work was very great. And the crown was set on Solomon's head, and he was king. Then there was a great feast all round Mount Zion, all the people eating and drinking, and rejoicing and praising God, who had given them rest from all their enemies. Soon after that good old David died."

QUESTIONS.

Who was Absalom's father? How had David to go away? What did cruel men do? Who came to help David? What did he charge them? What happened to Absalom? Why did Joab kill Absalom and did Absalom deserve it? What did David cry out? What did David ask of his people to do when he grew old? What did they bring him? What were all these things for? Who was to build the Temple? Why was David happy? What great rejoicing was there?

ABSALOM'S PILLAR.

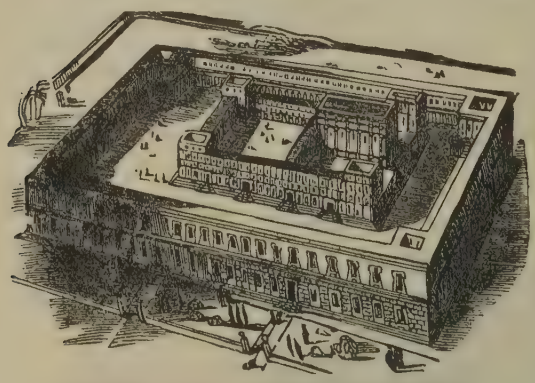
Twenty-seventh Sunday.

King Solomon's Wise Request and Wise Judgment.

"Give me now wisdom and knowledge."—2 Chronicles i: 10.
"The wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment."—1 Kings iii: 28.

"WHAT did Solomon do after David died?" asked Willie. "I've been wondering all the week."

"That is a very important question, my child. Solomon did not know what to do. When King David died Solomon was still almost a boy. But God spake to him in a dream by night, and said, 'Ask what I shall give thee.' Then Solomon said he was but young, and knew not how to rule over this great people that God had given him; and therefore he prayed, above all, that God would give him a wise and understanding heart. And God was pleased with Solomon's choice, and said that because he had cared for wisdom most, and had not asked for riches, or long life, or to put down his enemies, that therefore, besides wisdom, God would give him all the rest,—riches



SUPPOSED FORM OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

CHRIST BEARING HIS CROSS.

"Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children."—
Luke XXIII, 28.

"IT IS FINISHED!"—John XIX, 30.

and honor and length of life,—and he should be wiser and greater and richer than any king ever was before him or should be after him. All this was because he had cared so much to have a wise and understanding heart to know good and evil. That was first with him, and so God gave him all the rest. So it will be with all who seek first of all to be good. God does not make us wise all at once like Solomon, but if we care about it He will

INTERIOR VIEW OF ANCIENT TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM.

help us to get wise by little and little if we really try, and then He will bless all we do.

"Now, little Anna," began Aunt Charlotte, "I am going to tell you a story which will show how wise Solomon was. It is about two women and two babies."

"I am so glad," said the little one, as she drew up closer to Auntie's elbow and took hold of her arm with both hands.

"One day," continued Aunt Charlotte, "when King Solomon was sitting on his throne two women came to him; one with a live baby, the other with a dead one, both boys and just of the same age. They said they had been living alone together in the same house, each with her little baby, till one night one of the women rolled over her child in her sleep and stifled it, so that she found it was dead. But each woman said it was not her baby but the other's that was dead and that the mother of the dead one had put the little corpse down by the other sleeping woman, and taken her living child out of her bosom to herself. How was it to be known which was right?—for nobody out of the house knew the two little ones apart, and each of the women declared that she was the mother of the live child, not of the dead one. So they came to the king to judge between them.

"And what plan could Solomon take to find out the truth? He sent for the executioner, with a sword, and said that, as the women could not agree, the living child should be cut in two, and each woman should have one of the halves. One woman was content to have it so, but the other only cried out in grief and dread, 'O my lord, give her the living child, and in nowise slay it.' Then Solomon saw in a moment which was full of mother's love and which was full of hatred and jealousy; so he said, 'Give *her* the living child, and in nowise slay it: she is the mother thereof.' And so the true loving mother had her child safe and well and the other was disappointed in her spite."

"Hurrah for Solomon! Wasn't he smart?" shouted Willie. "That was a good start for a young king"

"I'm so glad the mean woman didn't get the good woman's baby," put in Anna.

"It seems to me," said Clara, "that Solomon was like God; he judged these two women by their hearts."

"Yes," answered Aunt Charlotte; "no matter what we say or do God judges us, and will reward or condemn us by the motives of our acts. Therefore we should pray for clean, pure hearts. The lesson also teaches us that wicked people are sure to come to disgrace."

QUESTIONS.

How old was Solomon when he began to be king? What did God say to him at night? What did Solomon wish for most? What did God give him besides? Why did God give him all these things when he did not ask for them? Who came before Solomon? What did both the women say? What did Solomon command? Did he really mean to kill the child? What did the women say? What did Solomon then tell them to do? Would not the loving mother rather give the child away than have it killed?

OBELISK AT HELIOPOLIS (On).

Twenty-eighth Sunday.

Solomon's Riches and Wisdom.

"All the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart."—1 Kings x: 24.

"SOLOMON was very rich as well as wise, was he not, Aunt?" asked Clara.

"Yes; King Solomon was the greatest king in wisdom and riches who ever lived," answered Aunt Charlotte. "He had an ivory throne with golden lions standing on the steps, and a beautiful house lined with sweet cedar wood. He sent ships, which brought home gold and silver, and apes and peacocks; and it was said that gold was as common as silver generally is, and silver as common as stones! All people honored him, and the Queen of Sheba came from her far-off country to see him, because of the fame of his greatness. And when she saw him she was quite overcome, and said that all she had heard was not half so grand and glorious as what she saw. Very happy, she

SHIP IN SOLOMON'S TIME.

said, were the people who stood around him and heard the words of his wisdom."

"I wish I could have heard him," said little Anna.

"Yes, but we have the words of his wisdom in the Book of Proverbs in the Bible, for his wisdom came from God. And though we shall never see his purple robes or his gold and silver, do you know what our blessed Saviour said?—'Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.'

"The least little flower, if you look well into it, is more beautiful than anything King Solomon ever wore, for God made it; and those who made Solomon's clothes could only put things together that were made already."

QUESTIONS.

What sort of throne had Solomon? What were on the steps? Who came to see him? What did she say of him? Where do we find Solomon's wisdom? What did our blessed Saviour say about him? What have we which are more beautiful than Solomon's robes?

THE PEACOCK.

Twenty-ninth Sunday.

Solomon Turns Wicked

"Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes."—Psalm lxxxix: 32.

"I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand."—1 Kings xi: 35.

DAGON, AN IDOL WORSHIPED IN SOLOMON'S TIME.

"SOLOMON was always a good king, wasn't he, Auntie?" asked little Anna as they took their seats under the trees in the cool shade.

"No, my dear," answered Aunt Charlotte, with a sad shake of her head. "It is very sad to say that as Solomon grew old he left off being good. He married a great many wives, and brought them from the heathen nations round; and he did not teach them to worship the true God, but let them worship each in her own way. So, out in his gardens, one lady had her idol to the moon, and another had hers to the dreadful idol Dagon, and so on; and though Solomon knew so much better, even he was per-

suaded to come and pay honor to these idols, just to please these women—he, the son of David, whom God had blessed so much.

"And what the king did the people were sure to do. So God spake to Solomon, and told him that since he had fallen away from the right way he must be punished, and that ten out of the twelve tribes would be taken away and not belong to his kingdom. It was not to happen in his own time, but in his son's time; but it must have been very sad to him to know that his beautiful kingdom and great power were to be so lessened, and that his son Rehoboam was a very foolish young man, who would spoil everything. But he was not to lose all, only part, for the sake of the holy King David, to whom God had promised that his throne should last forever."

"How did they get part of the kingdom from Rehoboam?" asked Willie.

"Well, my boy," answered Aunt Charlotte, laying her hand on Willie's head, "when God has a thing to do He always finds some one to do it for Him.

"There was a strong, brave man of the tribe of Ephraim, named Jeroboam, and God sent His prophet to speak to him. Jeroboam had a new mantle on, and the prophet took it and tore it into twelve pieces, and gave Jeroboam ten of them. Then the prophet said this was to show how God was going to tear away ten tribes from Rehoboam, the grandson of David, and give them to Jeroboam, because Solomon was bringing idols in to be worshiped. And he told Jeroboam that all should go well with him, and he would be a great king, and his sons after him, if he would go on serving the Lord, and the Lord only, and would keep from idols."

"It was the sin of disobedience again," said Clara, "and it brought its punishment."

"Yes," said her aunt, "disobedience to the First and Second Commandments."

Willie repeated both of these commandments, and they seemed to mean more than ever before to them.

QUESTIONS.

What wrong did Solomon do? Where did his wives come from? What did they want to worship? What did he do himself? Why was this wrong? What did God tell Solomon? How was he to be punished? How many tribes were to be lost? How many were to be kept? Why were any to be left? What had God promised David? In whose time was the trouble to come? What was the name of Solomon's son? What sort of person was he? Who was to take away part of the kingdom? How did the prophet make it known to Jeroboam?

PYRAMIDS OF GIZEH, EGYPT.

Thirtieth Sunday.

Reading Lessons from the Bible.

"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me."—John v: 39.

"NOW, children," said Aunt Charlotte, as they took their seats around her, "there are a number of beautiful stories in Bible history that I want you to read for yourselves from the Bible. I will skip them, because you have learned about some of them in the Sunday-school; so I need only hint at them this morning, and tell you where to find them, and Clara may read them to you during the week, from the Bible itself."

ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW.

"I shall like that, Auntie," said Clara.

"And I too," said little Anna, "only I'm afraid I won't understand them."

"I will listen while Clara reads," said Aunt Charlotte, "and explain everything you don't understand. Besides, you have heard most of them in the Sunday-school recently. You remember we left off last Sunday with God's telling Solomon what should happen for his wickedness in letting the people worship idols. Now, it came to pass just as God told him it would. His son Rehoboam was made king after Solomon died, and he was very wicked. He would not listen to his father's old friends and advisers, so ten tribes went away from him and made Jeroboam their king. We are told all about it in the 12th and 13th chapters of 1st Kings, and

THE PROPHET MEETS AHAB AND JEZEBEL.

the 13th chapter tells us also about the wicked prophet who would not obey God and the lion ate him up."

Clara made a note in her memorandum book of the reference Aunt Charlotte had given, so that she might find the places and read.

"You have learned," continued Aunt Charlotte, "in the Sunday-school about the good prophet Elijah, whom the raven fed, and how he was afterward fed by a poor widow, and how he made her meal and oil hold out during the long famine. You will find a full account of this, Clara, in the 17th chapter of 1st Kings. And then in the 18th chapter we learn the very interesting story of Elijah and the false prophets of Baal, and how the fire came down from heaven and consumed Elijah's offering; and about his taking the four hundred prophets of Baal and slaying them. After that a spot of cloud appeared, and a great rain came after the long drought, and the people again believed in God and praised him. But in the next chapter, the 19th, you will learn how the wicked queen, Jezebel, the wife of Ahab the king, grew very angry at Elijah for killing the prophets of Baal, and sought for him everywhere to destroy him; but Elijah fled away into the wilderness, and when he was about to starve to death an angel came to him and fed him, as the ravens had done before.

"Then you have not forgotten how you learned in the Sunday-school that this same wicked queen made Ahab take a poor man's vineyard, and had the poor man, whose name was Naboth, killed, and how the dogs licked up his blood. By reading more of the chapter, and continuing to read on to the end of the 22nd chapter of 1st Kings, you will find that God afterward punished Ahab

by letting him be killed in battle, and he fell on the very spot where Naboth was slain, and, as Elijah had told Ahab, the dogs licked up his blood, as they had done that of the poor man; but a more terrible fate was waiting for Jezebel, for she was afterward thrown down from a window and killed, and the dogs *ate* her.

"I am sure even little Anna has not forgotten the lesson of last Sunday at the school about good old Elijah. Do you remember how he died, little Anna?"

"No," said Anna, "he didn't die. He went to heaven in a chariot of fire with horses of fire, and his mantle fell on his good young friend Elisha, and he took it and made the waters of Jordan divide, just as Elijah had done, and after that he was a great prophet, like Elijah had been, and—"

"I see you know it," said Aunt Charlotte.

"Yes," put in Willie, "and I know some more about him. He made the Shunammite woman's dead child come back to life, but Gehazi, his servant, could not because he didn't have faith enough, our Sunday-school teacher said."

"I see you do not forget," responded Aunt Charlotte, with a pleased smile. "Now, Clara, make a note in your book where to read of all these interesting things we have just been talking about. You will find them in 2d Kings, 21st, 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, and 26th chapters. You can read some of them to-day, if you wish, and the balance of the references we have given during the week."

Thirty-first Sunday.

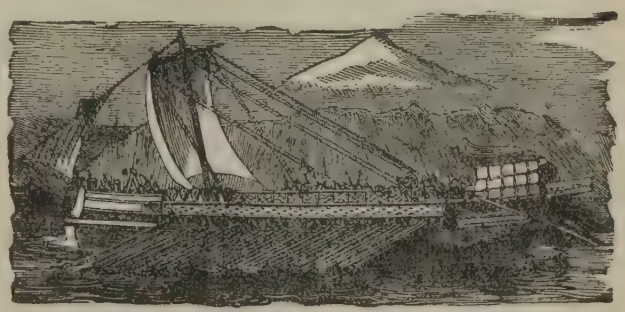
How a Little Girl Did Great Good.

"Wash, and be clean."—2 Kings v: 13.

THE children said they had enjoyed Clara's Bible readings very much during the week.

"I wish I could do great things, like men," said Willie.

"I do, too," put in little Anna. "I would love to have birds and angels feed me and to make folks well like Elijah and Elisha did."



WAR-GALLEY IN SOLOMON'S TIME.

"Well," said Aunt Charlotte, "I will tell you to-day of a little girl who helped Elisha make a very great man well."

"Oh, did she?" asked Anna in glee. "Tell us all about her."

"Well," began Aunt Charlotte, "there was once a poor little girl who was stolen away from her own home in Israel by Syrian soldiers, and carried far from her

mother and friends, to be a slave. It must have been very sad and lonely; but God lets nothing happen but for good, and so this poor little captive maid did great good. Her master was named Naaman. He was the captain of the army—brave and strong; but he fell ill of a disease called leprosy, that no doctor could cure, and which would go on getting worse till he would die of it. The little maid was sorry for him; and though she was all alone in a heathen land she had not forgotten about God and His prophets, and she told her mistress that at home, in Israel, there was a prophet who could cure her master by God's power.

"So Naaman set out in his chariot, and came to the prophet's door. He thought the prophet would come out and strike his hand over the place and cure him directly —all the more because he was such a great man. But, instead of that, the prophet sent out word to him that he was to wash seven times in the River Jordan, and he would be well. This made Naaman very angry. He thought the bathing in Jordan would do no good, and that the prophet made light of him, and he turned and went away in a rage. Then his servants persuaded him. They said, 'My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it? How much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?' Naaman was wise enough to listen to them. He did go and wash in the River Jordan, as the prophet bade him; and God gave the water the power to make him quite well again. Then he came back and thanked the prophet, and said he would never pray to any god again but to the one true God, who had healed him.

"So, you see, the little maid did great good to her

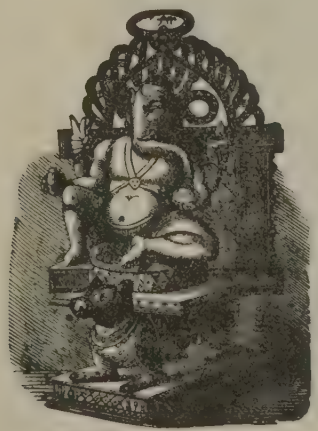
master, both to his body and his soul, because she was good, and remembered her God, even when she was far away from home."

"Yes," said Clara, "and we can all do good now by trying to get people who are wicked to come to Jesus and be cured of their sins."

"That is correct, my dear," said her aunt, as she hugged Clara to her breast. "Every one has the leprosy of sin, and Jesus can cure it, and will do so if we will do as He tells us."

QUESTIONS.

Who is the great captain we hear of to-day? What was the matter with him? From whom did he hear about the prophet? How came the little maid into Naaman's house? Who made the prophet able to cure people? Had Naaman been brought up to worship God? What did he expect the prophet to do to him? What did the prophet tell him to do? Why did he not like this? Don't we sometimes wish to do something grand, rather than just what we are told? But what have we got to do? What came of Naaman doing as he was told? To whom did Naaman say he would always pray?

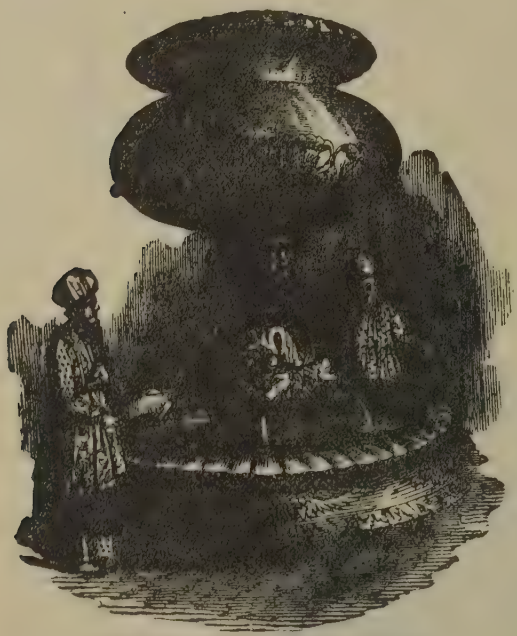


THE IDOL PULLIAR.

Thirty-second Sunday.

Good King Hezekiah.

"He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord."—2 Kings xviii: 3.



BRAZEN LAVER IN THE TEMPLE.

"AUNTIE," began Clara, "was Hezekiah, about whom we heard a little last Sunday at Sabbath-school, a good man or a bad man? It seems to me all those kings were wicked."

"Indeed," replied Aunt Charlotte, "you have been reading in the Bible and learning at Sunday-school of many bad kings, and I am very glad to tell you at last of good King Hezekiah. He cared for nothing so much as to please God. He would not have any idols, but he cleared

THE BURIAL OF CHRIST.

"And the women beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid."—Luke XXIII, 55.

ON THE WAY TO EMMAUS.

"Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent."—Luke XXIV, 29

them all away, and had the holy Temple all set to rights, and made beautiful as God had commanded; and he had all the services at the Temple at the right times, and used to go and pray there himself constantly. And he did all that he could to make his people good too.

"But there came a great danger. There was a king of Assyria named Sennacherib, who had quantities of soldiers and horses and chariots, and he used to conquer towns, and carry all the people in them away, to live far from home. He thought he would seize Hezekiah and his people in this way, and he did come and do much harm all over the country. He did not come at once to Jerusalem; but he sent three boasting men, with an army, to stand outside the walls and call out to the people inside that Sennacherib was coming to conquer them and carry them away, and that they need not believe their king Hezekiah when he said that God would help them, for no god had ever yet saved a country from Sennacherib.

"Hezekiah's people were terribly afraid. Some wanted him to get help from the king of Egypt; but Hezekiah knew that God had forbidden him to have anything to do with the Egyptians. He knew that God could help him, and that the way to be helped was to do just what God told him. So, though Sennacherib had so many men and he had so few, and the Egyptians had plenty of soldiers and horses, he made sure that God could save him much better than any Egyptian of them all.

"By and by Sennacherib had ruined all Hezekiah's towns and villages except Jerusalem, and shut up Hezekiah in his town, so that his people did not dare to come out. And Sennacherib wrote a letter to tell Hezekiah

that it was no use to hope to escape, as he was coming to take away the Jews and ruin Jerusalem; for no nation had ever yet been saved by its gods, so the God of Hezekiah could not help him.

"In his great distress Hezekiah went up to the Temple and told God all his trouble. And he said, 'Thou art the God, even Thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: Thou hast made heaven and earth.' He said he knew the gods of those nations could not save them, for they were no gods, only wood and stone; but he trusted that God would save him and his people, though they were far too weak to defend themselves against this terrible king and his people.

"God heard the good king's prayer, and sent him a promise that his enemy should not even come before Jerusalem, nor shoot one arrow at it. And God kept His word. The fierce soldiers of Sennacherib all lay down to sleep one night, but they never woke up again. God sent His angel with a deadly blast, and all the army that wanted to destroy His people died in one single night. It was because they and their king had fancied God could not save His people that they died."

"Auntie," said Clara, "wasn't it because Hezekiah prayed to the Lord and tried to be good and holy that no one could hurt him?"

"Yes," answered Aunt Charlotte, "and we should try to do like Hezekiah. If you are vexed, or if you are afraid, tell God all about it and ask Him to help you. And He will be quite sure to hear and help you; if you will only speak to Him and tell Him what is in your heart."

QUESTIONS.

Who was Hezekiah? What kind of king was he? Who wanted to hurt him? What did Sennacherib mean to do? Where did Hezekiah go in his distress? Why did Sennacherib say the other cities had not been saved by their gods? What commandment tells us not to have gods of wood and stone? What did Hezekiah ask God to do? What did God promise? And what happened to the soldiers of Sennacherib?

SENNACHERIB ON HIS THRONE.

Thirty-third Sunday.

The Good King Josiah.

"Like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might."—2 Kings xxiii: 25.

JEWISH BOOKS, SUCH AS THE ONE FOUND IN THE TEMPLE BY JOSIAH.

"I LIKED Hezekiah ever so much," said little Anna. "Were there any more good kings, Auntie?"

"Yes," said Aunt Charlotte, patting little Anna's curls, "I will tell you of one of them. There is one more good king, whose name was Josiah. He was great-grandson to good King Hezekiah. The two kings who had come between Josiah's grandfather and father had both been very bad men. His grandfather repented when he fell into trouble, and God forgave him; but his father never repented, and died in his wickedness when Josiah was only eight years old. But Josiah was very different. He made his people break down their idols, and clear out the Temple of the unholy things they had brought in, and worship God rightly once more.

While they were cleaning out the Temple they found a book that nobody knew—the Book of the Law of Moses; that is, the first five books in the Bible. All the time of these two bad kings nobody had remembered it or read it; it had been lost, and every one had forgotten all about it.

"When Josiah knew what it was, and that it was the Law that God had spoken to Moses, he made the priests read it to him and all his people. They were very much frightened when they heard it; for they found they were doing all the very things that God had said He would punish them for, and turn them out of their good land.

"So Josiah sent to a holy prophetess to ask her whether, if they left off their sins and were very sorry, and prayed with all their might, God would still forgive them. But God told her to answer that the people had done so wrong and grown so wicked that now their punishment must come; but that, as Josiah's heart was tender, and he loved God, it should not happen in his time, and that he should be quietly buried with his fathers. And, after years of goodness, Josiah was killed in battle, and all his people mourned over him.

"But they had not been really good, they only pretended, just to please him, and went back to their wicked ways in spite of all the pains he had taken with them; and his own sons were as bad as the rest. So the punishment was obliged to come.

"What I wish you to mind to-day is how these people lost their Book of the Law for want of attending to it. Every one should have a Bible of his own, and then not do like these people of Israel—let it lie by, omitting even to look at it, and forget what is in it, and then

forget even where it is. If you do this, you will grow as bad as these people were, and God will be forced to punish you, as He was forced to punish them."

"There were not any more wicked kings, were there, Aunt Charlotte, after Josiah showed them how much better it was to be good?" asked Willie.

"Yes, I am sorry to say there were," replied Auntie; "and during the week I want Clara to read you from the Bible the 23d, 24th, and 25th chapters of 2d Kings, in

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM BY NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

which you will learn of good King Josiah's last acts, in reading the Law to the people and in destroying the idols, and begging the people to be good. After that I will tell you the sad story of Josiah's wicked sons, who reigned after him, and how much trouble they had because of their wickedness, and how God finally let Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, come and kill many of the people, and put

out the king's eyes, and burn the king's house and the holy Temple and the city, and carry the people away to be his slaves."

"That is like God lets Satan lead us away to be worse than slaves if we disobey and are wicked," said Clara.

"Right," answered her aunt, "and I am sure when you read these chapters you will draw this and other good lessons from them. But now let us have the—

QUESTIONS.

Who was Josiah? What kind of person was Josiah? How old was he when he began to reign? What did they find in the Temple? How had it been lost? What did Josiah cause the priests to do? Why was he frightened? What did he ask? What did God promise him? But why did the people deserve to be punished? What did they do as soon as Josiah was dead? What came of forgetting their Bibles?

Thirty-fourth Sunday.

Daniel and His Brave Companions.

"God gave them knowledge and skill."—Daniel i: 17.

"Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace."—Daniel iii: 17.

"DID you read the chapters I gave you last Sunday, Clara?" asked Aunt Charlotte.

"Yes, Aunt, and I also looked up the references my Sunday-school teacher gave me to help us understand better, and we all liked them very much."

"Yes," said Anna, "and Clara read us about the good prophet Ezekiel, and his making the dry bones come to life, and about his drawing something on a stone and telling the people they might some time go back to Jerusalem. She can tell us and read us very much since you showed her how, Auntie."

"Yes," answered Willie, "but she told us she would get you to tell us about the four brave boys that the king took and carried to his palace, and many wonderful things happened to them. I've been wondering all the week what it was that they did. One of the boys was named Daniel; I have forgotten the others' names."

"Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego," said Aunt Charlotte, with a smile. "They were very interesting, brave, and noble boys. I wish my little nephew

Willie, and all other boys might be as good and heroic. These little boys were young princes of the king's family, who had been brought up in the palace of the house of David. They could not have been more than twelve years old when they were thus taken from their homes.

"The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, thought he should like to have them to wait on him. So he desired the steward of his palace to have them taken into his

"THEY DO NOT SERVE YOUR GODS."

care, to be taught both to wait on the king and to know all the learning of Babylon.

"Slaves instead of princes! That was sad enough; but what grieved these boys most of all was that the dinners that were sent to them all came from the king's own table, and they knew that all the meat there came from creatures that had been offered up to idols. Now, there was one boy, whose name was Daniel, who knew that it was very wrong for any Jew to eat meats that

had been offered to idols. Some of the boys said they did not care, and some said they were very sorry, but they could not help it. Yes, Daniel said, they could help it if they would leave off eating meat and drinking wine, and have only beans and water. Then three more of the boys said they would stand by Daniel, and have only the beans and water rather than break God's holy Law. Their names were Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael, but the king had changed these boys' names, and he called Daniel's companions Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

"So Daniel asked their master, Melzar, to give them none of the rich wine and fine dainties, but only water and pulse—that is, beans.

"But Melzar said they would grow thin and weak on such poor food, and then the king would be angry with him.

"'Only try us for just ten days,' Daniel said.

"And God so blessed the food that at the end of ten days Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael were fairer and fatter than all their cousins and friends, who had been eating the king's dainties.

"And Melzar had found that none were so true and honest and obedient and painstaking, so he trusted them very much; and they grew wise and learned, and still loved and feared their God, though they were slaves, so far away from home.

"Now, remember how they began. It was by giving up the things they liked when they found it was wrong to have them. When you are tempted to be greedy, would it not be a good thing to recollect Daniel and the other boys eating beans and drinking water?

"Well, by and by these boys grew up to be men.

They were wise and good and honest, and the king liked them very much; but the king's counsellors, who were not wise and good, hated them because the king liked them better than themselves, and they concluded to try to have them killed. Now, the king worshiped idols, and they knew these young men would not do that. So the wicked men persuaded the king to make a great golden idol and to command that everybody worship it.

"The king did not think of the trap these men were laying for his favorites, and he set up a great golden idol, much higher than this room, and commanded that as soon as his music played every one should fall down and worship the image; or, if any one would not, that person should be thrown into a burning fiery furnace. A furnace is like a very large oven, or like a brick-kiln—a sort of house quite full of fire—for burning and baking bricks, or melting iron, or anything else that requires to be made very hot. Many people were afraid of such a horrible punishment as being thrown into the furnace; and when they heard the music they made haste to bow down before the great golden image. But the Jews knew that they must not worship idols; so what could they do? The three young men were brought up before the king, because they would not bow down before his great image. The king asked them how it was; and told them fiercely that if they would not worship his golden image they must be thrown into the fire. But they stood up boldly, and said, 'Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O King! But if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.'

"The king was very angry at this brave answer. He had the furnace made seven times hotter than usual; and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were thrown into it, tied hand and foot; and the flame was so hot that it burnt the men that threw them in.

"Presently the king gave a loud cry. For in the midst of the fire were the men, not tied, but free, and walking in the burning heat as if they were in cool, spring air! And there was another with them, whose form was as the Son of God. Then he called them, and the three came out. There was no smell of fire about them, and not a hair of their heads was singed; they had not felt the heat at all; but that Holy One had taken care of them and kept them safe in the midst of the fire. Then the king of Babylon knew how wrong he had been, and he sent forth a command that no one should ever speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach,

"DID WE NOT THROW THREE MEN BOUND INTO THE FIRE?"

and Abed-nego, who had saved them in the burning fiery furnace."

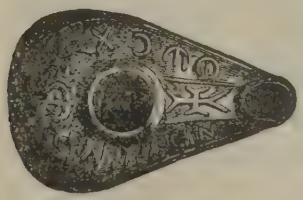
"Wasn't that wonderful!" said Willie.

"And the three boys were so brave," said little Anna. "I do love brave folks who are not afraid to do right."

"This teaches us again," said Clara, "that God always takes care of those who obey Him."

QUESTIONS.

Who were the boys carried to Babylon? What did the king call them? What was the name of the king of Babylon? How did he desire these boys to be brought up? What were they to eat? Why did they not like to eat these meats? What did Daniel beg for? Who joined with him? What did Melzar say? How long was it to be tried? How did Daniel and his friends look? Why was this? Why did God bless them? What was the beginning of all their holiness? What did the king of Babylon want every one to worship? Who would not worship the golden image? Why would not Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego worship the image? What is the Second Commandment? What was done to them for not worshiping the image? How hot was it made? What did the king see in the fire? Who was with them? Were they hurt? Why did not the fire burn Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego? Who took care of them in the fire?



LAMP WITH CHRISTIAN INSCRIPTION.

Thirty-fifth Sunday.

The Great Things that Daniel Did.

"Those that walk in pride He is able to abase."—Daniel iv: 37.
"God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it."—Daniel v: 26.
"Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee."—Daniel vi: 16.

"AUNT CHARLOTTE, Daniel was not in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, was he?" asked little Anna.

"No," answered Aunt Charlotte.

"He was put in a lions' den instead of the furnace, wasn't he, Aunt?" asked Clara.

"No, my dear; that is one mistake my very correct little assistant has made. It was a very long time after that before Daniel was put in the lions' den. The best way to straighten it all out would be to read the 4th, 5th, and 6th chapters of Daniel; but I'll tell the story, and then you may read it in the Bible if you choose.

"Daniel became a great prophet and interpreter of dreams. Some time after his three companions were cast into the furnace, great Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had a strange dream. He thought he saw a great tree with spreading branches and fine leaves, making a sweet shelter, where all the creatures came and stood, and the birds nestled in the boughs; but while he was admir-

ing it there came a Holy One down from heaven, and said the tree was to be cut down, and only the stump left in the tender grass of the field, and that it should be bound with iron, and wet with the dew of heaven till seven years had passed over it.

"When Nebuchadnezzar woke he was troubled, and was sure the dream had a meaning, and he sent for the prophet Daniel to tell him what it was. Daniel was so sorry that at first he could hardly bear to speak; but at last he told the king that it was himself, Nebuchadnezzar, that the tree meant. He was great and mighty, and countries and people were shadowed over by his power; but soon he would have a fall—he would lose his senses, and his man's heart would be like a beast's heart, and he would be driven out of his palace, and he would eat grass like an ox, and his body would be wet with the dew of

DANIEL INTERPRETING THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL.

heaven, and his hair would be long like eagles' feathers, and his nails like eagles' claws, till seven years had passed by; and then he would recover his senses and know and understand again, and he would come back to his kingdom again. Then he would know and own that the Lord of Heaven is the true God.

"Nebuchadnezzar was shocked at first; but soon he forgot all about the dream, and felt himself so wise and strong and brave that nothing could hurt him. He was walking one day in his palace, a most beautiful one, and

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN.

looking out on the grand city with the river running through it, with all the bridges and the hundred brazen gates; and his heart was lifted up with pride, and he said, 'Is not this great Babylon that I have builded?' That very moment there came a voice from heaven that said the time was come!

"And a strange madness came on the king; his brave, clever spirit became as senseless as a beast's, and he only wanted to graze in the field like the cattle. So they drove him out of the palace, and put a band of iron round him.

and let him eat grass like an ox; and his hair grew long and shaggy, and his nails like an eagle's claws, just as Daniel had said.

"So seven years passed away; and at the end of them he came to his senses again. God gave back his man's heart and his reason, and he went back to his palace and sat on his throne again. And one of the first things he did was to have a letter written to his people, telling them all his story, and bidding them do honor to the God of Daniel, who putteth down and setteth up."

"That was wonderful!" said Willie. "Then did he throw Daniel in the lions' den for making him eat grass like an ox?"

"No, brother," said Clara. "It was God who made the king do that."

"Yes," replied Aunt Charlotte, "Nebuchadnezzar seems to have been kind to Daniel all his life. Years after the old king died his son Belshazzar was on the throne, and he seemed to have forgotten Daniel, but Daniel still lived in Babylon. Belshazzar was a foolish, self-pleasing young man; and his enemies, the great nation of Medes and Persians, came to make war on him, but still he did not care for anything but his amusement.

"He thought Babylon so strong that they could never break in; and he gave a great feast to all his lords, with fine meats and wines, and he had all the gold and silver bowls, and the golden candlestick that had been brought out of the Temple of God at Jerusalem, on the tables while he and his friends were drinking and singing and shouting.

"All on a sudden a stillness came over them, and their eyes opened wide with fright. For just over the

candlestick there was seen a man's hand. There was no body, only the hand; and the finger went along writing on the wall, tracing out letters.

"There were four words, but no one could read them or tell what they meant.

"The king was terribly frightened. His knees knocked together and he shook all over, and he called for some one to tell him what this writing could be. Nobody could guess; but at last the queen, his mother, Nebuchadnezzar's wife, who was still living, came and put him in mind how Daniel had been able to explain his father's dreams. So Daniel was sent for, and he at once read the writing. He told them Belshazzar was found wanting. His kingdom was going to be taken from him and given to the Medes and Persians.

"And even then, all the time the Babylonians were feasting and not watching the enemy, Cyrus, the clever king of the Persians was making his men dig ditches, into which he turned all the water of a great river that ran through the city; and that very night all his army came in, walking up the dry bed of the stream. No one saw them till they were in the city; and that very night Belshazzar was slain.

"I wish I could have seen that hand with no arm to it writing on the wall," said Willie.

"But did they kill good Daniel, too, Auntie, when they killed the king?" asked little Anna.

"No, sister, he had not been put in the lions' den yet. *That's* what they did with him, *I reckon!*" said Willie. "Was it, Auntie?"

"Not yet," answered Aunt Charlotte. "Cyrus, the general who conquered Babylon, was good to the Jews.

He issued a proclamation allowing them to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their holy Temple, and take back all the golden vessels. You can read all about it in the first five chapters of the book of Ezra. Clara will find it and read it to you this week. But Daniel was a very useful man to Cyrus, and he kept him in Babylon. After the death of Cyrus his son-in-law, Darius, was made king, and he, knowing how wise and good Daniel was, made him the chief ruler next to himself."

"That was good for Daniel! wasn't it?" shouted Willie.

"Yes," said his aunt, "but it made the other chief men jealous of Daniel, and was the cause of his being put into the lions' den."

"Oh, that was so mean!" said little Anna. "I wish the lions had bit those old, bad men to death."

"So they did, my dear," answered Aunt Charlotte; "and now let me tell you the story. Darius himself worshiped idols. But Daniel worshiped only the true God. And sometimes in those days men were worshiped as if they were gods. It was the strange, foolish way of the people to treat King Darius as if he was a sort of a god, and one day his people came to him and begged him to make a law that for thirty whole days nobody should say their prayers to any god, or ask anything of any man, except of Darius the king; or if they did, they should be thrown to the lions, to be eaten up. This was to catch Daniel, for the wicked men knew that Daniel would not worship the king; but Darius thought it was all to do him honor, so he made the law that thus it should be. Now, when a law had once been made by the king of that people. it could not be changed. So nobody was to

say their prayers to any one but the king for all that time.

"But by and by the king's people came and told him that there was one old man who did not attend to his law, but that they had watched him in his own room, and there he said his prayers three times a day, just as if the king had made no law at all.

"The king was very sorry when he heard who it was, for this man who would not leave off saying his prayers was the man he trusted most in all the kingdom. It was Daniel, one of the captive Jews, son or brother to one of the last kings of Jerusalem. He had been taken to Babylon when he was a very little boy, and now he was quite an old man, but he had never ceased praying to the great God of Heaven, and he was not going to leave off now. He was a prophet of the Lord, and very wise, and he was one of the king's very best advisers, so Darius was greatly grieved when he was accused.

"But Darius could not help himself; the law that had once been made could not be broken, and these spiteful people declared that Daniel must be thrown to the lions. All day long the king tried to get his wise, good counsellor saved from this dreadful fate, but he could not succeed; and at evening Daniel's enemies came to take him and throw him to the lions in their den.

"Still, though Darius was a heathen himself, he had one hope: and when he saw his friend led away he said, 'Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee.'

"So they took Daniel, and put him into a pit among the lions, and they fastened up the door and left him there; and the king was so sorry that he could not sleep

all night for grieving for the good, wise, brave man who was thrown to the lions because he would not leave off praying to God, and feared God more than man.

"And when daylight came the king and his attendants went to the den. The enemies hoped to find that Daniel was eaten up, but the king cried out in a lamentable voice, 'O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?'

"And Daniel's own voice came cheerfully back, and told the king that his God had sent His angel, who had shut the lions' mouths, so that they could not hurt him, and had kept him safe all night.

"And the king was very glad, and commanded them to take Daniel out of the pit, and to put the spiteful men in instead; and the lions were so hungry that they broke all their bones in pieces before ever they came to the bottom of the den.

"Only think what Daniel was willing to bear rather than not say his prayers! And it was because he prayed that God saved him. God's power shut the lions' mouths, because Daniel had been more afraid to leave off praying than even to be torn to pieces. How glad we should be that we can say our prayers safe and unhurt; and how careful we should be never to miss them out of idleness, if Daniel would not miss them out of fear."

QUESTIONS.

What did the king Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream? What did the king want to know? Whom did he send for? Whom did Daniel say the tree meant? What was to happen to the king? What beautiful place had Nebuchadnezzar built? What did he say about it? What happened that moment? What did this poor king want to be? What did he eat? What were his hair and his

nails like? What did he tell the people when God restored him? Had not he lost all his pride? What should we not boast of? What wonderful thing did Daniel do in Belshazzar's reign? Tell about the terrible scene. What became of Daniel after Belshazzar was slain? What law was Darius persuaded to make? Who was to be prayed to? What was to be done to anybody who said prayers to any but Darius? Who refused to pray to the king? What was done to Daniel? Did the lions hurt Daniel? Why was Daniel kept safe in the den? Whom did Daniel fear most, God or man? When should we say our prayers? Can any one hurt us if God takes care of us?

EGYPTIAN HARP.

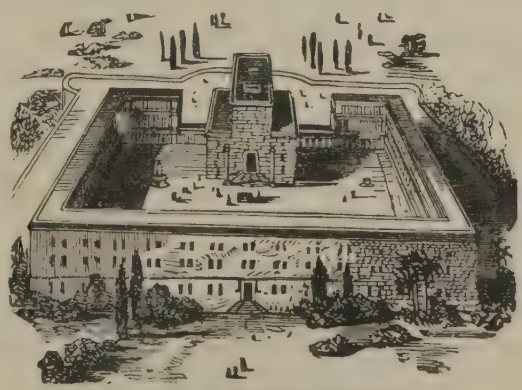
Thirty-sixth Sunday.

Five Hundred Years of Jewish History.

"What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."—Micah vi: 8.

"AUNT CHARLOTTE, that was a beautiful story of Daniel that you told us last Sunday, but I am interested to know something of the Jews that Cyrus permitted to return to Jerusalem. Were they good and obedient after their long captivity?" asked Clara.

"To answer your question, Clara: After the Jews returned to Jerusalem they were, as a rule, better than they had been before they were carried away into captivity. They had the good priest and scribe Ezra, who rebuilt the Temple, and Nehemiah, who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, to help and advise them in the beginning, and they had many good men and some very



FORM OF SECOND TEMPLE.

wicked ones as rulers. They rebuilt the Temple first, and a long time afterward built the walls again around the city of Jerusalem. It is interesting to read in Nehemiah how they worked on the walls with arms ready all the time to fight the enemies who tried to hinder them. The high priests ruled over the people in their own country, but they were all the time under some other power to whom they paid tribute. For the first hundred years after their return they were subject to the Persians. Then the Greeks, under Alexander the Great, conquered Persia, and he became their ruler. Alexander was very kind to them, let them exercise their own laws almost entirely, and every seventh year he did not require them to pay him any tribute, because every seventh year, according to the Jewish law, was a year of rest. Alexander and his successors ruled them for one hundred and sixty-four years. After that the Syrians and the Egyptians and the Romans conquered the country one after the other, and ruled them more than a hundred years. Every time the Jews grew exceedingly wicked God let their enemies punish them again, as He had done before. Then they had trouble among themselves. Bad men several times murdered the high priests in order that they might have themselves made high priests. The Jews were often slain by thousands, and thousands of them were time and again carried away into slavery; but all the while there were many of them faithful and true to their religion. They were especially careful in their observance of the Sabbath. Their enemies learned that they would not even fight to defend themselves on the Sabbath day, and on more than one occasion they were attacked, and one time the city of Jerusalem itself was taken, and a

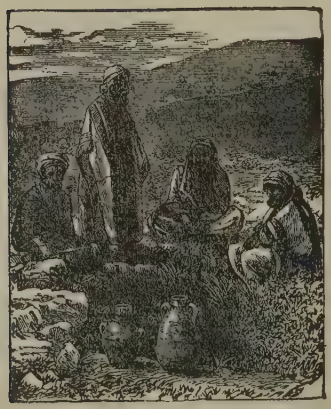
THE MADNESS OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR—Daniel had interpreted the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, and in the picture its fulfilment is depicted. As a punishment for pride and vanity, he was for four years absent from the haunts of men.—(Daniel 4:33.)

hundred thousand Jews permitted themselves to be carried away into slavery rather than fight on the Sabbath day. Another time a brave Jewish leader revolted against his oppressors and raised a great army, and won many victories. A body of one thousand of his men took refuge in a cave or deep defile in a mountain to worship one Sabbath day. The enemy saw them and gave battle, but the Jews permitted themselves to be slaughtered rather than violate God's commandment to keep the day holy, as they believed they would be doing if they fought to defend themselves. After that it was made lawful for them to fight when they were attacked on the Sabbath. Forty-eight years before Christ, came the Romans and made Herod the king of the Jews. He was the wicked ruler in power when Jesus was born. By and by you will read the writings of Josephus, the great Jewish historian, and will learn all about what the Jews did during the five hundred years' period between their return from Babylon and the coming of Christ. There is very little told of it in the Bible, and it is to be found in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, and in the Maccabees of the Apocrypha. And now, as we have only sixteen more Sundays in the year, I propose that next Sunday we shall take up the coming of our Lord, and have some stories from the New Testament even more interesting than those we have had from the Old."

The children all agreed to Aunt Charlotte's suggestion, but said they wished they might hear more of the Old Testament, and resolved to read the books she had mentioned and find out for themselves.

QUESTIONS.

What good king permitted the Jews to go back to Jerusalem? What two good prophets helped and advised them in the beginning? How long did the Persians rule over the Jews after their return? What great warrior next conquered and ruled the country? How did he treat the Jews? How strict were the Jews in observing the Sabbath? Tell what happened at a cave one Sabbath day. Who was finally made king of the Jews by the Romans?



JACOB'S WELL AT SHECHEM.

Thirty-seventh Sunday.

The Coming of Jesus.

"He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest."—Luke i: 32.
"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."—Luke ii: 14.

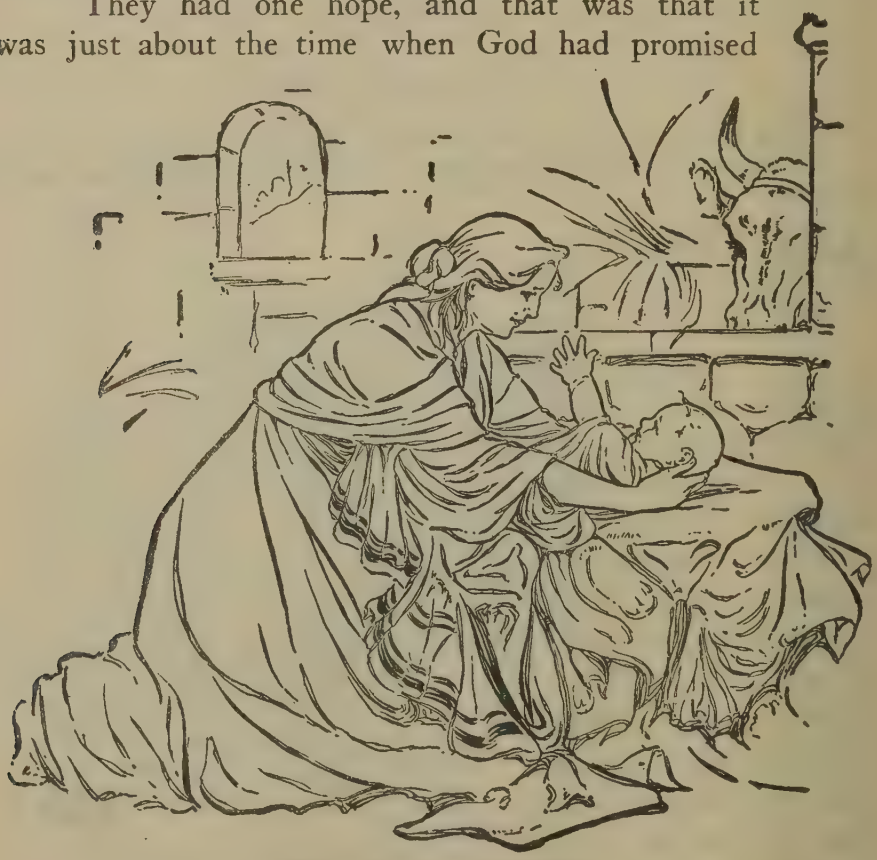
"NOW, Auntie, you will tell us about Jesus, will you not?" asked Willie.

"Yes," said Aunt Charlotte. "All the Bible is intended to point to and bring us to Jesus, and now I will tell you the story of His coming. You remember I told you last Sunday that the Romans set up a strange king over the Jews. His name was Herod, and he was an Edomite—that is, a descendant of Jacob's brother Esau. He professed to believe in the true God, and began to make the

THE SHEPHERDS LISTENING TO THE SONG OF THE ANGELS.

Temple much more beautiful than it had been since it had been built up after the Jews came back from Babylon. But he was a very wicked and cruel man, who killed his own wife, and made everybody afraid of him; and the Jews were very unhappy under him.

"They had one hope, and that was that it was just about the time when God had promised



MARY AND THE CHILD JESUS.

to send a Holy One into the world to save them and set them free; and they thought He would be a great, mighty king, like David, who would conquer Herod, and drive

away the Romans, and have a crown and throne brighter than Solomon's.

"And just then an angel was sent from God to the little town of Nazareth, where there lived a young maiden, quite a poor woman, but most good and holy, a descendant of the great King David. The angel told her that she was highly favored, for she was to be the mother of the Son of the Highest, for the Holy One who was to be born of her should be the Son of God; and when He was born she was to call His name Jesus, which means the Lord our Saviour, because He should save His people from their sins; and Mary said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.' And the angel departed from her.

"Mary lived at Nazareth; but it was God's will that the holy Son of God should be born at Bethlehem, the little town where David used to live and keep his sheep. The Romans sent out orders that every one should go to their proper home to have their names set down, and pay a piece of money. So Mary had to go, with her husband, a good man named Joseph, who was a carpenter. Such a number of people had come there that there was no room for them in the inn, and they had to go to a stable—a cavern underground—where the oxen and asses were.

"And it was there that the Holy Child of Mary, the Son of God, was born—in the stable where the cattle were. The mother wrapped Him in baby-clothes, and laid Him in the manger, among the hay and straw.

"None of the people in the inn knew or cared; but there were shepherds on the hill, keeping watch over their flocks by night. The angels came down to them, and told them that to them was born that day, in the city of

David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord, and that He was a Babe lying in a manger.

"As soon as the angel had said that, many other angels, who were very glad that poor men below should be saved, all began to sing, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' And when the angels had gone the shepherds went up to Bethlehem and saw Jesus, and when they went away they told all they saw and heard about Him.

"So the angels and the shepherds kept the Saviour's birthday, as we keep it on Christmas day."

"And is that how we get our Christmas day?" asked little Anna.

"Yes, darling," said Aunt Charlotte; "we keep it in memory of Christ's birth."

QUESTIONS.

Whom did the Romans make king of the Jews? What nation did Herod belong to? Who was the forefather of the Edomites? Whose son was Esau? What sort of man was Herod? What were the Jews hoping for? To whom was the angel sent? Where did she live? What did the angel tell her? Whose son would He be? What was she to call Him? What does Jesus mean? What did she answer? How came Mary to go to Bethlehem? Why could she not go to the inn? Who was born in the stable? Where was He laid? Who were told of it? Who told the shepherds? What did the angels sing? Why were they glad? What is the birthday of our Lord?

Thirty-eighth Sunday.

The Childhood of Jesus.

"We have seen His star in the East and are come to worship Him."—Matt. ii: 2.

"Arise, take the young Child and His mother."—Matt. ii: 13.

"Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."—Luke ii: 52.

"AUNTIE, did Jesus and His parents live in Bethlehem always after that?" asked little Anna.

"No, darling; they remained there a very little while. Would you like me to tell you about the childhood of Jesus?"

"Yes, yes, yes," answered all the children at once.

"Well, to begin: the shepherds were not the only people who came to see the blessed Lord Jesus when He was a little

AN OFFERING OF DOVES.

Infant at Bethlehem. Far away in the East, God showed a bright, beautiful star to some wise men, and taught their hearts that it was the sign that the great King was born.

"They set out on their journey to Judea, to see and honor Him; and when they came they asked, 'Where is He that is born king of the Jews, for we have seen His star in the East, and are come to worship Him.' This made Herod afraid, for he thought this must be a king who would take his kingdom from him. He made the learned men among the Jews look out in the prophecies where Christ should be born. They found it was to be at Bethlehem, and he told the wise men so, and desired them to let him know when they found the King, that he might come and worship Him, too; but he did not really mean to worship Him, but to kill Him.

"However, God Himself showed these wise men where to find our blessed Lord, for the same star that they had seen in the East came out again, and went before them, and came and stood over where the young Child was. And though they saw a little Baby and a poor mother holding Him in her arms, they knew He was Lord and King; and they worshiped Him, and offered Him the gifts they had brought. There was gold, and there was frankincense, which means the sweet-smelling, costly powder that was burnt in the Temple; and myrrh, which is a precious gum which comes out of trees, and is used to preserve and keep things good."

"What did wicked Herod want to kill little Jesus for?" asked Anna. "He was a very, very bad man."

"Yes, Herod was very bad, and he was afraid that the new-born King of the Jews would take away his kingdom. So he meant to kill Him as soon as he could

find out from the wise men where He was. But the wise men never came back to tell him, for God spoke to them in a dream, and warned them to go back to their own country another way. And God also spoke to Joseph the carpenter, Mary's husband, and told him to take the

THE WISE MEN ON THEIR JOURNEY.

young Child and His mother and flee into the land of Egypt, and stay there till they should be told to come back, for Herod was seeking the young Child to destroy Him. Joseph obeyed, and the whole family fled into Egypt, and lived there for some years.

"When Herod found the wise men did not come, he was very angry; and, to make sure of killing Him who was to be king of the Jews, he was so cruel and wicked as to cause all the babies in Bethlehem, of two years old and under, to be put to death. We call them the Holy Innocents, because they were the first who died for Jesus Christ's sake. It seemed very sad then, but they have been happy and glorious ever since in heaven, and always will be. But God had taken care of Jesus, and He was safe in Egypt; and there they stayed till our Lord was about three years old, and then the wicked king Herod died."

"I'm glad of it!" said Willie with excitement.

"Not so, dear," said Aunt Charlotte. "We must not rejoice in the destruction of the most wicked people. We should be sorry for Herod, for wicked people always bring punishment on themselves, and when they die sinful they suffer forever in the next world."

"Joseph came home from Egypt after that, did he not, Auntie?" asked Clara.

"Yes; when Herod died Joseph brought our blessed Lord and His mother back from Egypt, and went to live at Nazareth. We do not know any more about Him till He was twelve years old, and then He went up with Joseph and His mother to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of the Passover. That great feast the Jews always kept in remembrance of the night when God delivered them out of their troubles in Egypt. When the time came for going home, Mary and Joseph could not find the Child Jesus. They thought at first that He was among the other boys of the company who had come up from Nazareth, and they went on a day's journey; but when He

did not come back to them in the evening, they turned back to Jerusalem to seek Him. They looked for Him during three days all around the city, and found Him at last in the Temple, among the boys who came to be taught by the learned men there, and He was so wise that even the great scholars who listened were astonished at His understanding and His answers; but when His mother came to call Him, He went home with her directly; and He obeyed her and Joseph in everything, and helped and

JESUS IN THE TEMPLE WITH THE DOCTORS.

worked for them, though He was really their God and King. That was to teach us all how good children should behave at home to their fathers and mothers, for Joseph was like a father to Him, though His real Father is God. And as He grew older He lived on with them, and worked as a carpenter with them till He was thirty years old. So, you see, He knows just what it is to be one of us, and a poor, hard-working man. He was God from Heaven, who came to be one of us, and just like us."

QUESTIONS.

Who came to see our Lord? Where did they come from? What had they seen? What did they ask? How did the wise men find the way? Whom did they see? What did they offer Him? What is frankincense? What is myrrh? Why did they worship Him? What did Herod want to do? Why could he not find Jesus? Whom did Herod murder? What do we call those Babes of Bethlehem? Where was Jesus? Who had taken Him there? How did Joseph know he was to go to Egypt? When did Jesus come back from Egypt? Where did He go and live? How old was He when we hear about Him again? Where did He go then? What feast did He go to? What happened when it was time to go home? Where was He found and what was He doing there? What did He do when He was called? How did He always behave to His mother and Joseph?

Thirty-ninth Sunday.

The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus.

"Repent ye, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."—Matt. iii: 2.
"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."—Matt. iii: 17.
"Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."—Matt. iv: 7.

"AUNTIE, what did Jesus do after He left Joseph's carpenter shop? You said he worked there until He was thirty years old," said Willie.

BEAUTIFUL GATE, JERUSALEM.

"Yes, so He did," began Aunt Charlotte. "It was now about time for Him to begin to set up His kingdom, for He had only three years more to live. Jesus had a cousin by the name of John. He was about six months older than Jesus, and God sent John to make ready for the coming of Jesus. John was a very devout man, and also a very strange man in appearance. He lived out in the rocky and bushy country on the bank of the River Jordan, dressed in a coarse garment woven of camel's hair, and living on the locusts and wild honey he found there. He

stood there telling every one who came that the kingdom of God was going to begin, and that those who wished to belong to it must repent and give up their sins. All who would feel and own their sins he took down to the river and baptized, to show how some day they would have their souls washed, just as their bodies were washed now. This washing was called baptizing, and he is always called John the Baptist, but he always told the people that there was One coming who was greater than he was, and that this Holy One would baptize them with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

JESUS BAPTIZED.

"One day, as John was baptizing, Jesus came to him, and desired to be baptized. Now, John knew Jesus had never done one wrong thing in all His life, and had nothing to repent of. So he said, 'I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me?' Then Jesus answered, 'Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.'

"Then John baptized Him; and as they were coming up out of the water the heaven above was opened, and there came God the Holy Ghost, taking a shape like a dove, and rested upon the Head of Jesus, and there was God the Father's voice speaking out of heaven, and saying, 'This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'

"Then John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the Son of God, and the great King whose way he had been sent to prepare.

"And this was the beginning of baptism. After that people were baptized by the disciples of Jesus in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to show to the world that they belonged to Jesus Christ, and believed in Him as their Saviour. The ministers of our Christian churches now administer baptism."

"I did not understand before why people were baptized," said Clara.

"What did Jesus do next?" asked Willie.

"Ah!" replied Aunt Charlotte, "this is the beginning of Christ's sorrows and sufferings for human beings. You remember how Satan had gained power over man because Eve did not resist His temptations in the Garden of Eden, and thereby all mankind was lost in sin? Now Satan was to be overcome by Jesus, and thereby all who depended on and believed in Jesus should be free again from the curse of sin.

"So Jesus went up into a lonely place in the wilderness, that He might meet the Devil, and stand up against all the temptations that had led Eve astray. He was there forty days, with nothing to eat; and the Devil came and said, 'If thou be the Son of God, command that these

stones be made bread.' But He would not do it at Satan's word; and so as Eve fell by eating, He stood by resisting hunger. Then the Devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, in one moment of time, and said, 'All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.' But though Eve had been tempted by seeing the beauty of the fruit, our Lord was not led astray by all the glory and beauty of this world. So He conquered again. Then He stood with Satan on the top of the Temple, with a precipice below; and Satan tempted Him to cast Himself down, so that the angels should come round and bear Him up, and all might see He was the Son of God. It was just as Satan had told Eve, that she would be like a god if she ate the fruit; but Jesus said, 'It is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'

"Satan left Him then for a time, and the angels came and waited on Him. That was the beginning of His victory over Satan and sin. And every one of us must fight our battle, too. Whenever we are inclined to be naughty, Satan is tempting us, but we must try to be strong and drive him away; and our Lord Jesus will help us if we only try, and will drive him away."

"Aunt Charlotte, does not Jesus teach us by resisting Satan that we can resist his temptations, too?"

"Yes," said Aunt Charlotte. "We shall never be more tempted than Jesus was, and the Bible tells us 'He will not permit us to be tempted above that which we are able to bear,' and when we are led into sin it is because we do not call for and use God's power to help us resist."

QUESTIONS.

Who was sent to prepare Jesus' way? Where did John live? What did he wear and what did he eat? What did he tell the people? What did he do to those who repented? In what river did he baptize them? Who did he say was coming? How would that One baptize them? Who came to him to be baptized? What happened after the baptism? What came down from heaven? Who spoke from heaven? What did God the Father's voice say? Tell of Jesus' temptation. What was Jesus' reply to Satan?

Fortieth Sunday.

How Jesus Called His Disciples and Apostles.

"Behold the Lamb of God."—John i: 36.
"I will make you fishers of men."—Matt. iv: 19.

"AUNTIE, how did Jesus get His disciples?" asked Clara.

"Well," answered Aunt Charlotte, "the next day after Jesus was baptized—of which I have told you—the good John began to point Him out, saying, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.' There were two poor fishermen, who had come out to listen to John, who heard, and who went to Jesus and asked, 'Master, where dwellest Thou?' He said, 'Come and see.' Their names were Andrew and John. They stayed all one night with Him, and saw and felt that He was so great and holy that no one else could be the Christ who had been promised to come and save the world. And John was always the nearest and best loved of all to Him.

"Andrew went and told his own brother, Simon, whom our Lord named Peter, which means a rock; and they brought two more of their friends to see Him, whose names were Philip and Nathanael. When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said, 'Behold an Israelite indeed,

in whom is no guile!' Nathanael asked how He could know him? Our Lord answered, 'Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.' Then Nathanael said, 'Thou art the Son of God. Thou art the King of Israel.' For he had been alone under the fig tree, and nobody who was not God could have seen

CHRIST TEACHING HIS DISCIPLES BY THE WAYSIDE.

or known he was there; and our Lord said that because he believed, he should see greater things than these.

"Now, those persons who loved to learn of Jesus and followed after Him were called His disciples, and Jesus showed them many wonderful works to make their faith stronger. The first wonderful thing He did was—

Turning the Water Into Wine.

"Jesus and those first friends—James, John, Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, and Nathanael—were all invited to a wedding, and Mary the mother of Jesus was there, too. But the bride and bridegroom were poor people, and in the midst of the feast it turned out that there

"FILL THE WATER JARS WITH WATER."

was not wine enough. Then Mary said in a low voice to her Son, 'They have no wine.'

"Now, there were six great jars standing by, and Jesus told the servants to fill them with water. So they filled them up to the brim; and then He told the servants to draw out some of what they had poured in and carry it to the chief person there.

"FOLLOW ME."

"As soon as this man had tasted it, he found it was such good wine that he said to the bridegroom that most people began their feasts with their best wine, but that here the best had been kept for the last. This was the first wonderful thing our Lord did on earth, and it made His disciples know that He was God, for no one else could have done such a wonder. We call these wonders miracles.

"After that Jesus and His friends walked over into Samaria, and there He met a woman at the well and told her everything she had ever done, and so greatly astonished her that she called Him a prophet; and she told all the people of the town, and they begged Him to stay with them two days, and before He left they said He was the Christ and Son of God, and many of them believed on Him and followed Him. Then He went back into Galilee, into the city of Cana, where He had turned the water into wine, and there He did another very wonderful work by—

Healing a Nobleman's Son.

"The nobleman did not live at Cana, but at the city of Capernaum, and he begged Jesus to come up there and heal his son, who was sick unto death. But Jesus did not go; He simply said to the man, 'Go thy way; thy son liveth.' The man believed Jesus and went away, and sure enough, when he reached home he found his son cured. He asked the people when the boy was made well, and they told him, and it was the same hour that Jesus spake the word. You can read all about this wonderful cure in the last nine verses of the fourth chapter of John.

The nobleman and all his house believed on Jesus, and this miracle brought Him many more disciples.

"The next wonderful miracle that Jesus performed was—

Causing the Miraculous Draught of Fishes.

"They were now back in the country where Andrew, Peter, and John lived; and, as I told you, these men were fishermen. They used to go fishing at night in boats on the blue lake of Galilee, shut in between the high mountains. One night they had been out in two boats, trying hard to catch fish, but none would come to their nets. In the morning they saw Jesus standing on the bank, with a great crowd of people round Him, come to see and hear His teaching. He called to Simon Peter to come and take Him into his boat, so that He could teach the people from thence without being crowded. When He had done speaking, He told Andrew and Peter to go out into the deeper water and let down their nets. They said, 'Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at Thy word I will let down the net.' And instantly the net was so full of fishes that Andrew and Peter could not draw it up without the help of John and his brother James, who was with him in his boat; and both boats were quite full of fish, and ready to sink with the weight! Jesus afterward caused another wonderful draught of fishes, of which I will tell you at the proper time. When the boats came to land, our Lord told the four disciples that they were, from that time forward, to leave their business as fishermen and to come with Him, for He would make them fishers of men. and they were to draw

disciples to Him, instead of catching fish. They believed Him, and left all they had to follow Him, and they were always with Him—as His dear friends who followed Him everywhere and stored up His holy words in their hearts.

"Jesus now chose nine other men to join these three, making twelve in all who were to devote their whole time

"THE NET ENCLOSED SO MANY FISHES THAT IT BEGAN TO BREAK."

to His help and give up their other business. These twelve men were called *Apostles*."

"Thank you, Aunt," said Clara. "I now see how Jesus got His disciples and apostles. I never understood before. I see disciples are all who follow Jesus; apostles were His preachers or teachers of the people."

"Right, my dear," said Aunt Charlotte. "And now, Master Willie and little Curlylocks," she said, stroking

CHRIST BLESSING LITTLE CHILDREN.

"Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
Matt. XIX, 14.

CHRIST IN THE GARDEN.

What, could ye not watch with me one hour?—Matt. XXVI, 40.

little Anna's curls, "do you think you can answer the questions?"

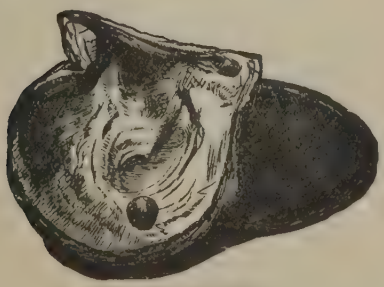
"I think so," responded Anna. "It was better than the stories about David, I believe."

"Yes; Christ could do more wonders than David, Moses, or Daniel, couldn't He, Aunt?" asked Willie.

"Yes, for Jesus was God Himself in the form of a man," replied Aunt Charlotte, "and He could do anything God could do."

QUESTIONS.

Who were the first disciples that came to Jesus? Tell about Nathanael and Jesus? Where were Jesus and His friends invited? What wonderful thing did Christ do at the wedding? Where did He then go? Whom did He meet at the well? What wonderful miracle did He next do? Did He have to go to the nobleman's son to heal him? What was the regular business of Peter and Andrew and John? What wonderful thing happened to them? What did Christ now say He would make them? How many others did He call to be always with Him and what did He call them?



PEARL OYSTER.

Forty-first Sunday.

Other Wonderful Deeds of Goodness.

"He went about doing good."—Acts x: 38.

"AUNT," said Willie, "did Jesus do any more wonderful things after He made the sick boy well and told the woman all she had done and made water into wine and caused the net to get full of fish?"

"I am glad you remember last Sunday's talk so well," said Aunt Charlotte, with a smile. "Yes; our Lord worked many more miracles while He was on earth, and most of them were cures to the blind, or the lame, or the sick. He made them well directly by His power and love. One of His most remarkable miracles was—

WOMAN TOUCHING THE GARMENT OF JESUS.

Curing Peter's Wife's Mother of a Fever.

"Simon Peter had a house at Capernaum, which is one of the towns that stand upon the shore of the lake of

Galilee. There our Lord cured the mother-in-law of Peter of a bad fever by His mighty power in one moment, and there He generally lived when He was in those parts; but He never stayed long there, for He went about doing good. In every town our Lord used to teach in the synagogues, and draw out all the meaning of the Law; and when He came out, all the sick people who were near, and all the blind and deaf and dumb people were brought to Him, and He cured them all by only just touching them, or even only by bidding the disease to go away. For He was God as well as man, and could do all things.

"Now, the Jews were in two parties, called Pharisees and Sadducees, and they used to quarrel and have many bad ways. When they found that Jesus blamed them, they were very angry; and when the people called Jesus the Holy One whom God promised, they said that the real Christ would be a great king, and that this Jesus was only pretending. But all the poor heard Him gladly; and when He was driven out of the towns, they came after Him into the hills and open places, and went everywhere they could to hear Him, and it was on one of these occasions that Jesus performed the wonderful miracle of—

Feeding the Five Thousand.

"Jesus had gone away from his persecutors into the wilderness, and the multitude had followed Him. Evening was coming on, and all these people had been with Him all day, and had nothing to eat. He said to Philip, 'Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?' Philip came from a village just below, but he did not know

what to do. Andrew said there was a little boy there who had brought five loaves and two small fishes; but what would they be among so many? Indeed, the loaves were not like ours—only thin barley cakes. But our Lord said, 'Make the men sit down.' So they all sat on the grass; and He gave thanks, and began to give out to the apostles the bread and the fish, and they never came to an end, but there was enough for all the five thousand; and when

CHRIST FEEDING THE HUNGRY MULTITUDE.

they had all done, He told the apostles to gather up the remains, that nothing might be lost. And there was enough to fill twelve great baskets.

"At another time Jesus fed four thousand people in a marvelous manner. You can read about it in the last ten verses of the fifteenth chapter of Matthew."

"That was the most wonderful thing yet," shouted Willie. "Think of making one boy's dinner feed five

thousand people, and then leaving more than they began with."

"What did the people do, Auntie?" asked little Anna.

"Why," responded Aunt Charlotte, "the people whom Jesus had fed wanted to make Him a king, but He would not be an earthly king; so He told the apostles to row away across the lake, while He went up alone into the hills to pray to His Father, where the people could not find Him. They did as He told them, and then occurred another wonder, greater than any of the others perhaps you would think."

"What was it? What was it?" asked Willie and Anna together.

"Why," answered Aunt Charlotte, "it was—

JESUS STILLS THE WAVES.

Jesus and Peter Walking on the Water.

"Walking — sure enough—on the water? Are you joking, Aunt?" asked Willie.

"It was a rough night," replied his aunt. "The wind came down from the hills, and tossed the lake up in great waves; and the apostles rowed with all their might, but they made little way. But when the night was far on, they saw a Figure coming to them, walking, yes, *walking on the*

waves. They were frightened, and cried out. Then the Figure said, 'It is I; be not afraid!' and they knew it was their Master, and were glad. And Peter said, 'Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water.' So he came out of the boat, and as long as he trusted in his Master he could walk; but when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid, and cried out and then he began to sink. He called out, and Jesus put forth His hand and held him up, saying, 'O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?' Then they were both taken into the boat, and the wind ceased, and the lake was calm and still."

The children were too deeply thoughtful to make any more remarks, and Aunt Charlotte explained to them that God could do anything, and Jesus was God.

QUESTIONS.

Whom did Jesus cure of a fever? Where did Peter live? Who hated Jesus? But who loved and followed him? What wonderful miracle did Jesus perform in the wilderness? Where did He send His disciples? What happened to them on the lake? What miracle was performed? Why could Jesus do these wonderful things?

Forty-second Sunday.

Raising the Widow's Son and Other Miracles.

"Young man, I say unto thee, Arise."—Luke vii: 14.
"His face did shine as the sun."—Matt. xvii: 2.
"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."—Mark x: 14.

"AUNTIE, please tell us more of Jesus' wonders to-day," requested little Anna.

"I am glad you like to hear of them," said Aunt Charlotte, "and I will tell you something more wonderful than walking on the water."

"What?" said Willie.

EASTERN HEAD-DRESS.

"Raising the dead," said his aunt. "Once when He was going with His disciples into a village called Nain, He met a funeral coming out. People are not carried to the grave in their coffins in the East; but they are laid on a sort of bed called a bier, with all their best clothes on, and a wreath of flowers round the head. The person who was now to be buried was quite a young man, and he was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And when the Lord saw

it He had pity on the poor woman, and He said to her, 'Weep not.' Then He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. Then He said, 'Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.' And he that was dead sat up and began to speak; and our Lord gave him back alive to his mother. Jesus afterward raised other dead people. If Clara will make a note she can read you in the ninth chapter of Matthew, eighteenth to twenty-sixth verses, where he raised a girl, the daughter of Jairus, to life, and the eleventh chapter of John tells about His calling His friend Lazarus from the grave after he had been dead three days. These are both beautiful stories, which you can read for yourselves."

"That showed He was God sure enough," said Willie.

"Yes," said Aunt Charlotte, "but still the people doubted it. They thought He did these things by some trick. But Jesus gave His disciples another proof that He was really the Christ in—

The Wonderful Transfiguration.

"What does transfiguration mean?" asked Clara.

"This story will tell you," said her aunt. "One night Jesus took Peter and James and John out to a mountain with Him, as He was wont to do when He was going apart to pray. They went to sleep; but when they woke, they saw Him in bright light and glory. His face was shining like the sun, and His clothes were as white as the light; and there were two talking with Him, Moses and Elias. And they were talking of how He was come to die at Jerusalem. The three were afraid, but they

were happy, too; and Peter said, 'Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for Thee, one for Moses, and one for Elias;' for, indeed, he hardly knew what he was saying.

"And even as He spoke, a bright cloud came and hid the wonderful sight from them, and then they found that no one was with them but their Master, Jesus, looking as usual; and He bade them tell no one about what they had seen, until the Son of man should be risen again from the dead.

A GLORY SHONE ABOUT THEM.

"They knew then that their Lord was the Son of God; but they could not think what He could mean by rising again from the dead. And this wonderful showing forth of His glory, Clara, is called the Transfiguration."

Jesus Loves Little Children.

"Were there not any children with Jesus, Auntie?" asked little Anna.

JESUS WHOM THE JEWS CRUCIFIED LOVED LITTLE CHILDREN. DURING HIS LIFE HE WOULD CALL THEM UNTO HIM AND TAKE THEM INTO HIS ARMS AND TALK WITH THEM.

"Yes," responded Willie; "don't you remember that boy whose dinner Jesus made into enough to feed five thousand?"

"Yes," said Aunt Charlotte, "there were always children with the parents who followed Jesus, and He loved them and used them often as examples. Once when the disciples disputed among themselves who would be first and greatest in His kingdom, our Lord called a little child, and took him, and set him in the midst, and said that the greatest in His kingdom would be the most like that little child; for only those who are ready to be last here can be high up there. At another time, when the mothers were bringing their babies for Jesus to touch, the disciples wanted to keep them away; but He said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'

"And then He took the little ones up in His arms, and put His hands on them, and blessed them. And just so He blesses the little children who come to Him now. Though they cannot see Him now, He is always glad to hear them pray."

QUESTIONS.

What was the matter with the widow's son? What did Jesus do to him? Whom else did Jesus raise from the dead? What other wonderful proof did Jesus give His disciples that He was divine? Who appeared with Him in the Transfiguration? What did the disciples know after that? What did Jesus think of little children? Tell the two stories about them in this lesson.

Forty-third Sunday.

Jesus, the King.

"Hosanna to the Son of David."—Matt. xxi:9.

"DID Jesus just keep on doing wonderful things to make the people believe on Him, Auntie?" asked Willie.

"Yes. For three years our blessed Lord went about doing good and teaching, generally in Galilee, in the towns or on the hills, where the people came out to hear Him; and at the feasts, when people went to worship at Jerusalem, He used to go up and speak to them in the outer court of the Temple. I cannot stop to tell you of all the wonderful things He did. In the first chapter of Mark we read of His healing a leper. Leprosy is a disease that no doctor could cure, and Luke, in the seventeenth chapter, tells us where Jesus healed ten lepers all at once. Matthew, in the twelfth chapter, tells how He made a

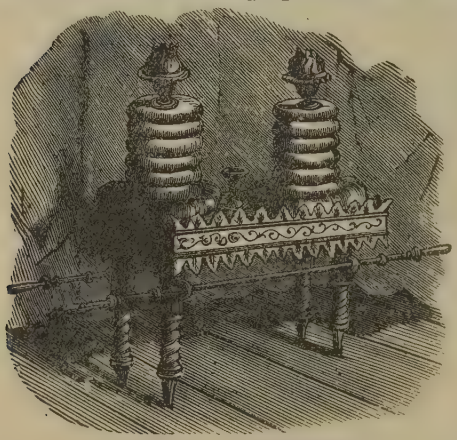


TABLE OF SHEW-BREAD.

withered hand well—another thing the doctors could never do. And in the fourth chapter of Mark we read of how once when the disciples were about to be lost in a great storm, Jesus just spoke to the winds. 'Peace, be still,' He said, and in a minute it was calm. Then, in the ninth chapter of Matthew we read how He gave two blind men their sight at Capernaum, and later (Matthew, twentieth chapter) He gave two more their sight at Jeri-

LEPERS OUTSIDE THE GATE.

cho; and again (in Mark, eighth chapter), He cured another blind man at Bethsaida. I could not begin to tell you of them all, but you can read of many more in the New Testament, though the Bible tells us that comparatively little of all He did was written down. Thousands upon thousands of people came to Him, and He wrought wonders all the time. He cast out devils from crazy people, giving them their right minds; cured the palsy and

the dropsy, made dumb men able to talk, and opened the ears of the deaf so they could hear. Every disease, perhaps, that was incurable by man they brought to Him, and He healed them all.

"This made the people so glad that they loved Him and followed Him, and shouted His praises and wanted

"HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID! BLESSED IS THE KING OF ISRAEL, THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD."

to make Him king at the next feast of the Passover, to which they knew Jesus was coming. Just before He came in, He sent two of His disciples to fetch a young ass on which no one had ever sat, and on it He rode down

Mount Olivet. Now, this made the people all the more certain that He was their long-promised king, because there was an old prophecy which said to Jerusalem, 'Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass.' People remembered this, and they spread their mantles on the ground before Him, and others cut down branches from the trees and strewed them in the way; and the people before and behind, especially the children, cried out with all their might, 'Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.' Hosanna means, 'save now.'

"The Pharisees were very angry, and bade Him stop them; but He answered with the verse of a Psalm, 'Yea, have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength?'

"But upon the mountain side Jesus paused for a little while, and as He looked at beautiful Jerusalem He wept over the city, for He knew that sad and dreadful punishments were coming on it; and yet the people would not listen to Him and be sorry, and so be saved.

"Then He rode on and entered the city. In our next lesson I will tell you more of what happened."

QUESTIONS.

How long did Jesus go about doing good? Tell some of the wonderful things He did. What did the people want to do? What made them sure Jesus was to be their king? What did they shout? What did Jesus do before entering Jerusalem?

Forty-fourth Sunday.

Cleansing the Temple and the Last Supper.

"My house shall be called the house of prayer."—Matt. xxi: 13.
"This do in remembrance of Me."—Luke xxii: 19.

"AUNT, you said you would tell us more of what Jesus did after entering Jerusalem," said Willie.

"Well," began Aunt Charlotte, "the first thing our blessed Lord did at Jerusalem was to go into the Temple; and there, in the courts, He found people keeping shop, selling the lambs that were wanted for the Passover, and doves for other services, and changing the coin of other denominations that strangers brought for Jewish money.

GETHSEMANE.

"This was very disrespectful to God, and Jesus was

LITTLE JESUS IN JOSEPH'S CARPENTER SHOP.

"And he was subject unto them."—Luke II, 51.

CHRIST HEALING THE SICK.

"And he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them"—Luke IV, 40.

angry. He had driven them all out once before, and they had come back, and now they were doing it again. So He drove them all out, and told them His Father's house was a house of prayer, but they had made it a den of thieves.

"No one dared to answer Him, and all that day and the next He stood in the Temple, teaching the people, and showing the wickedness of the chief priests and Pharisees. It seemed as if all the people of Jerusalem were ready to follow Him, and as if He might begin His reign directly; but this was not what He came for, and as He well knew, the Pharisees were planning against Him.

"They wanted to get Him to say something that they could say was against the Law, so they asked Him many hard questions, but His great wisdom put them all to silence, and made them ashamed; but they were so hard and wicked that they only hated Him the more; and the chief priests grew more fierce and bitter when they saw how all men listened to the Lord Jesus. They could do nothing to Him by day, because the people would have risen up to defend Him; so they tried how to find Him alone at night, to take Him secretly. Then came—

The Wicked Plot of Judas.

"Judas, you know, was one of the twelve apostles. He was allowed to be the treasurer for Christ and the other apostles. But he was too fond of money, and he used to take for himself what was trusted to him to take care of. So he went on from bad to worse, till at last he did the dreadful thing of promising the chief priests that

he would show them to some lonely place, where they could take his Lord and Master prisoner; and then they were to pay him for this wickedness with thirty pieces of silver. Judas settled all this, and then he went back to our Lord and the other eleven apostles just as usual, thinking they did not know; but our Lord did know very well. But He bade the apostles get ready the supper that was eaten the night before the Passover, in a large upper

JESUS WEEPS OVER JERUSALEM WHERE HE WAS SOON TO BE PUT TO DEATH.

room that was lent to them for it, and there He sat down to eat with them.

"That night when our Lord and His apostles were eating the Supper together, He was very sorrowful, and said, 'One of you shall betray Me.' The apostles were grieved and each said, 'Lord, is it I?' And He said, 'He that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish, the same shall be-

tray Me.' And then, as the custom was, He dipped His piece of bread in the dish in the middle of the table, and gave it to Judas. Then the wicked man presently got up and went away.

"And as they were still in the upper room, our Lord took bread and broke it, and gave a piece to each of His apostles, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.' And He took a cup of wine, and said, 'This Cup is the new testament in My blood: this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as ye do eat of this Bread, and drink this Cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come.' And that was the beginning of what we call the Sacrament or the Lord's Supper."

"Auntie, I am very glad you told us of this. I did not know before just how the Lord's Supper was begun, nor did I understand so well as now why we celebrate it."

"It is substituted," said Aunt Charlotte, "in the place of the old Jewish Passover, and a little later we shall find why the Lord's day was substituted for the old Jewish Sabbath day."

QUESTIONS.

What did Jesus do when He first entered Jerusalem? What did the people do? What did the Pharisees try to get Him to do? What did the chief priests try to do? Which one of the disciples turned traitor? What was the cause of Judas' sin? Tell about the Lord's Supper.

Forty-fifth Sunday.

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus.

"Not as I will, but as Thou wilt."—Matt. xxvi: 39.
"Betrayest thou the Son of Man with a kiss?"—Luke xxii: 48.

"NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS THOU WILT."

"AUNTIE, did the wicked old priests come into the supper-room with Judas and catch Jesus?" asked little Anna.

"No, darling, when the Supper was over, and night was coming on, our Lord went out with His disciples to a garden, full of olive trees, called Gethsemane, where He often used to pray. He told

them again on the way that they would soon all be afraid, and leave Him; but Peter could not think so, and said boldly that if everybody fell from Him, he never would. But Jesus answered, 'Verily, I say unto thee that this night before the cock crow thou shalt deny Me thrice.'

The Agony in the Garden.

"Then He went on to the garden, taking only Peter, James, and John into it with Him, and telling them to watch while He went apart to pray. They were heavy and sorrowful, and could not keep awake; but while He was praying, He was in the greatest trouble and grief that ever any one felt. He knelt and prayed in an agony, till His sweat was as great drops of blood falling down to the ground. For He was feeling the sorrow for all the sin of all the world—the sorrow that belongs to you and me. The disciples heard Him say, 'O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt.' He came to them more than once, and called them, as if He longed for them to comfort Him; but still they fell asleep again, though He said, 'What, could ye not watch with Me one hour? The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

The Deceitful Kiss and the Cruel Soldiers.

"Just as our Lord had wakened His three apostles for the last time, there came a tread of soldiers, and lanterns gleamed through the olive trees. For Judas Is-

cariot, the traitor, knew that his Master was apt to go to the olive garden to pray at night, and he was leading them, and he said to them, 'Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is He: hold Him fast.' And he came up first to Jesus, and said, 'Hail, Master;' and kissed Him. All our Lord said was, 'Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?'

"Peter tried to defend Him, and drew a sword and cut off the ear of one of the servants; but our Lord bade him put the sword back into the sheath; and then, in His great love, our blessed Lord touched the ear, and cured it in an instant, and begged that all the disciples might be allowed to go their way. Indeed, they were so much afraid that they all forsook Him and fled away, except John and Peter, who both followed to see what would be done with Him."

"That was very bad and mean to treat good Jesus that way," said little Anna.

"I'm glad Peter and John did not run away from Him like the others," said Willie. "I like Peter because he was so brave."

"Yes, but Peter got into trouble a little later," said Aunt Charlotte. "I will tell you of it in our next lesson."

QUESTIONS.

Where did Jesus go when the Supper was over? Whom did He take with Him into the garden? What did the disciples do? What were some of the words Jesus uttered? Who came with the soldiers? How did Judas betray Jesus? Who tried to defend Jesus, and what did he do? What did Jesus do? What did all the disciples except Peter and John do?

Forty-sixth Sunday.

The Trial of Jesus by the Jews.

"I know not what thou sayest."—Luke xxii: 60.
"He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter."—Isaiah liii: 7.

"AUNT, you said you would tell us how Peter got into trouble by standing up for Jesus," said Willie.

"Yes, and I want to know what those wicked men did with Him," said little Anna. "Did they crucify Him right off in the garden?"

ROMAN CENTURION.

"I will answer you both," said Aunt Charlotte. "You will see, Willie, that Peter got into trouble not by standing up for Jesus, as you suppose, but by denying Him. No, Anna, they did not crucify Jesus in the garden. The soldiers took Jesus, and bound Him, and led Him away to Annas first; for he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year. From Annas Jesus was taken to Caiaphas, where His enemies tried to

make out some charge to bring against Him; but as He was good and holy, and had no sin at all, they could accuse Him of nothing. And when they asked Him questions, He answered them not a word, for He knew that it was only to accuse Him. Then, Willie, came the sad scene in which—

Peter Denied His Lord.

"While Jesus stood at the upper end of the hall, John, who knew one of the servants, had come into the lower end, and had brought in Peter with him. The chill of the morning had come on, and the servants lighted a

JESUS MEETS THE PHARISEES.

fire on the pavement, where Peter stood and warmed himself. One of the maids there looked at him, and asked if he did not belong to Jesus of Nazareth. Peter was afraid, and said, 'I know not what thou sayest.' But then another maid said, 'This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.' Peter grew more afraid, and went on de-

claring he did not know such a person; but presently another servant said, 'Did I not see thee in the garden with Him?' Again Peter's fear of being punished for wounding the man in the garden led him further astray, for he began to curse and swear, and say, 'I know not the man.' Just then the cock crew, and the Lord turned round and looked upon Peter.

"That look went to his heart. He went out and wept bitterly; and whenever he thought of his sin, he wept."

"That is what Jesus had told Peter he would do," said Clara. "This is another proof that He knows things before they happen, and is God."

Aunt Charlotte nodded an approving smile to Clara and then continued.

"But this was only the beginning of our Lord's trials. From the house of Caiaphas they carried—

Jesus Before the Great Council of the Jews,

where all of the chief men questioned Him. But no one could prove that He had broken the law; and whenever a story was brought against Him, it turned out not to be true. At last the high priest stood up and commanded Him to say whether He were the Christ or not. He answered, 'Thou hast said: nevertheless, I say unto you, hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.' At this answer, Caiaphas and all the other enemies made a great outcry, as if they were very much shocked at His speaking of Himself as the great Judge of all—namely, as God. They all cried, 'He is guilty of death;' and

they began to beat Him and strike Him; and they blindfolded Him, and struck Him on the face, and bade Him say whose blow it was. And all the time He stood gentle and patient, and said not one word of complaint or anger.

"Much as the chief priests hated Jesus, they dared not put Him to death."

"Did they have to turn Him loose?" asked Anna.

"No," said Auntie. "I will tell you in the next lesson what they did with Him."

QUESTIONS.

Where did the soldiers take Jesus? Could they find any fault in Him? Where were Peter and John? What did the servant ask Peter? What did Peter answer? How many times did he deny his Lord? What reminded him of his sin? Where did they carry Jesus from the house of Caiaphas? Who questioned Him there? What did the high priest at last ask Him? What was His answer? What did they cry? How did they mistreat Him?

THE GOLDEN CANDLESTICK.

Forty-seventh Sunday.

Jesus Before Pilate's Court.

"Ye denied the Holy One and Just and desired a murderer to be granted unto you."—Acts iii: 14.

"AUNTIE," began Clara, "you told us the Jews dared not put Christ to death; why was that?"

"Since the reign of the great wicked Herod," replied Aunt Charlotte, "the Romans had not allowed the Jews to put anybody to death without their leave; so the chief priests were obliged to take Jesus before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. But it was not possible to find anything that a Roman would think He deserved to be put to death for. When the chief priests said that 'by our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God,' Pilate only feared to do anything against Him; for he saw that there was no fault in Jesus, but that the chief priests were spiteful and hated Him.

The Wicked Charge of Treason.

"Then the chief priests said that He called Himself King of the Jews. This made Pilate more anxious, for to set up to be an earthly king would have been rebelling

against the Romans; but still he wanted to let Jesus go, because he saw that He was innocent; yet he did not like to offend the priests, who might have accused him to the Emperor of Rome. Pilate saw what was just; but he was afraid, and cared for himself more than for his duty.

THE PRIESTS BRING ACCUSATIONS AGAINST JESUS.

"Pilate's wife warned him not to have anything to do with harming Jesus. She told him she had suffered in a dream on account of Him, and Pilate tried hard to release Him. At last he thought he had found a way of saving the Lord Jesus without offending the Romans. It was the custom that at the feast of the Passover he should set some prisoner free, whomsoever the Jews asked for; and he thought that they would ask for Jesus.

The Jews Preferred a Murderer to Christ.

"But there was a robber and murderer in prison named Barabbas, and while Pilate was absent from the hall the enemies of our Lord went about among the people, stirring them up to ask for him to be set free; so that the poor, foolish people all broke out with a great shout to ask that this murderer Barabbas might be set free.

"Pilate asked them what was he to do with Jesus, and then there was a great roar from all the people, 'Crucify Him! crucify Him!'

"Now, crucifying was a very horrible and painful punishment, that had never been allowed among the Jews, but was used chiefly by the Romans themselves for slaves and for robbers; so that their savage cry was for Jesus to have the punishment that belonged to Barabbas.

"Pilate's soldiers were very cruel, and they laughed at a poor man being called a king; so when they had beaten the blessed Jesus till He was bleeding all over, they took one of their old red soldiers' cloaks and threw it over Him; and they platted a crown of sharp thorns, and forced it upon His head; and they put a reed in His right hand, instead of a sceptre; and they bowed their knees, mocking Him by pretending to do Him honor.

Pilate Tries to Clear Himself.

"Jesus never spoke one word of anger all this time, and when Pilate saw His meek, brave, patient face, pale and faint with pain, and streaming with blood, he thought the people would pity Him; so he led Him once more to

the top of the steps of the judgment hall, and said, 'Behold the man!' But the people were too mad to have any pity or feeling, and they only cried louder and louder still, 'Crucify Him! crucify Him!' Pilate was not brave enough to go against them all, even to save an innocent man; so all he did was to take water and wash his hands before them all, to show that he was clear of wishing it, and he said, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just person.' But the chief priests made the dreadful answer, 'His blood be on us, and on our children!' meaning that they would take the guilt and punishment."

QUESTIONS.

Why could the Jews not put Christ to death? What did they accuse Him of before the governor? Why did not Pilate release Jesus? Who warned Pilate not to punish Jesus? What did Pilate then try to do? Which of the two did the people choose? Who was Barabbas? What did the Jews say should be done with Jesus? How did Pilate's soldiers treat Jesus? What last effort did Pilate make to save Jesus? How did he try to clear himself? What did the priests try?

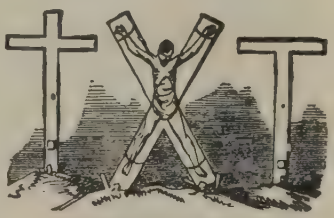
WASHING THE HANDS.

Forty-eighth Sunday.

The Crucifixion of Jesus.

"They pierced my hands and my feet."—Psalm xxii: 16.
"Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews."—John xix: 19.

"AUNTIE, what did they do next with Jesus, after they treated Him so mean?" asked little Anna.


FORMS OF CROSSES.

"Pilate gave Him up to the Jews and they crucified Him, did they not, Aunt?" rejoined Willie.

"No," said Aunt Charlotte. "The Jews did not crucify Christ. The Romans did it, but the Jews were the cause of it. When the judgment, about which I told you last Sunday, was over, Pilate gave up our Lord to the four soldiers who were to crucify Him. His cross, a heavy beam of wood, with another fastened across it, was laid on His shoulders, that He might carry it to the place where He was to suffer—a place named Calvary, outside the walls of Jerusalem. He was so weak and worn out after the long sad night, the being taken from one judge to another, and the beating and tormenting, that He could hardly walk under it; and the soldiers met a man coming out of the country whom they forced to carry it after Jesus.

"When they came to Calvary, the soldiers made the blessed Jesus lie down on the beam of wood, and they stretched His arms out on the cross-beam, and drove a large nail through each of the palms of His hands into the wood, and another nail through His feet. Thus they fulfilled the prophecy in the twenty-second Psalm and sixteenth verse saying, 'They pierced my hands and my feet.' Then they lifted up the cross, with Him upon it, and planted it in the ground, that He might hang there till He should die. And all He said while they were thus nailing Him were the words, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do!'

JESUS BEARING THE CROSS.

"Over the head of the blessed Lord on the cross was a tablet, with the words, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews.' The Jews tried to persuade Pilate to change this inscription so it would read, 'He said He was king of the Jews;' but Pilate would not change it, and the tablet told the truth, for Jesus is king of the Jews, and the Bible tells us He will come again to reign over His kingdom on earth, but it will not be until all the world shall become believers in Christ. On each side of Jesus was another cross, with a robber upon it, and in this was ful-

filled the prophecy. 'He was numbered with transgressors,' written hundreds of years before by the prophet, and we can read it in the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah.

"There Jesus hung patiently while the chief priests and Pharisees passed by, mocking and laughing at His pain, and crying out, 'He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.' Even the robbers at first joined in the cry; but by and by one of them began to feel that He who was so patient and so great in all that agony must truly be the Son of God: and he rebuked his fellow, and said to Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom!' And the Lord answered, 'To-day shalt thou be with Me in paradise!'

"Jesus' grief-stricken mother had come to stand by the foot of His cross, and with her, her sister and some other women, and His beloved apostle John. The Lord looked down at her and said, 'Woman, behold thy son!' and He looked at John, and said, 'Behold thy mother!' And John took Mary the mother of Jesus home with him and was always like a son to her afterward.

"At noon-day a dreadful darkness came over all the earth, and it lasted for three whole hours, as if the very sun mourned for Him who made it. The earth quaked, even the rocks were split asunder, and the great thick veil of the temple was split in two from the top to the bottom. These things convinced the Roman soldiers who watched Jesus that He was no ordinary person, and their commander, the centurion, went so far as to declare, 'Truly, this was the Son of God.' Just at three o'clock the blessed Lord said, 'I thirst:' and as one of the soldiers

was touching His lips with a sponge full of vinegar, He gave a great sad cry, 'My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me!' Then presently He added, 'It is finished! Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit!' And He cried with a loud cry; and so He, who was God and man in one, died for us men, and for our salvation."

"Auntie," said Clara, "should we blame the Jews for crucifying Christ? We are taught that He died for all sinners, and as such are we not all responsible for His death?"

"Yes, my dear; that is a good point. We are too severe on the Jews. Every sinner has a part in the crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus died for those very Jews who crucified Him, and any other wicked people would have done just as they did, and asked God to forgive them. They did not know He was the Son of God, for Jesus said so; and perhaps some of them who cried crucify Him afterward repented and believed on Him, and were saved by Him."

QUESTIONS.

Where was our Lord to be crucified? What had He to carry? But who had to be called to help Him? Why was He so worn out? What was the cross? How was He fastened to it? What prayer did He make? For whom was He praying? For whom was He dying? What was set up over our Lord's head? Who were crucified on each side? How did the robbers behave at first? How did one change? Who were standing by His cross? What did He say to His mother and to John? What came over the earth? How long did the darkness last? What did our Lord cry out? What was His sad cry? What did he say at last? Why did He die?

Forty-ninth Sunday.

The Burial of Jesus.

"He wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in a rock."—Matt. xxvii: 59, 60.

"AUNTIE, did they bury Jesus in the 'potter's field' that was bought with Judas' thirty pieces of silver, and where Judas was buried?" asked Willie.

"No," answered Aunt Charlotte. "I will tell you about His burial. There were some good people even among the chief of the Jews; and two of these, named Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, went to Pontius Pilate and asked him to let them bury the body of Jesus. People generally were much longer in dying on the cross, so Pilate sent to see if He was dead. To make sure, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and out came blood and water together. The robbers were still alive, so the soldiers broke their legs, that they might die sooner; and so the repenting one soon went to our Lord in paradise.

"Then Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took the holy body down from the cross, quite dead. Now, close by, Joseph had a garden, and in it was a cave in which he had hewn out a new tomb in the rock, and in

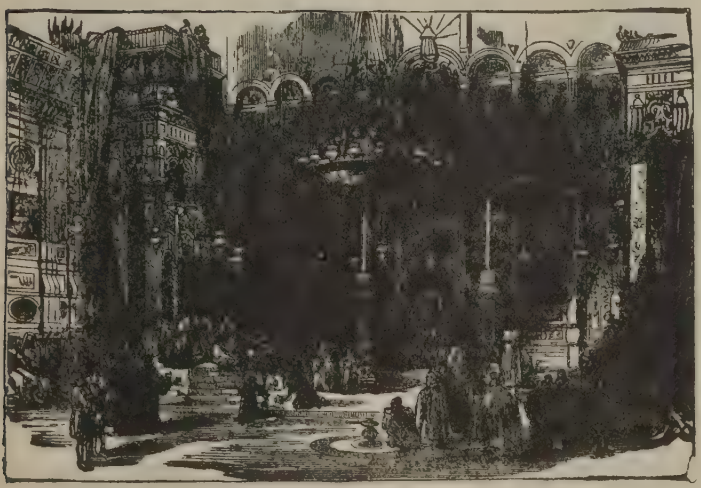
which he meant to be buried himself, but where no one had yet been laid. They carried our Lord's body there; and the good women who followed Him, Mary Magdalene and the rest, wrapped it up in linen cloths and sweet spices. They wanted to do more for it, but it was getting late on Friday evening, and the Jewish Sabbath day, or seventh day, was counted from sunset on our Friday, and then they could do no manner of work. So they had to wait till the Sabbath should be over; and Joseph rolled a great rock to close up the door, and they went away in their grief.

"And then came a guard of soldiers, whom the chief priests had sent to watch the stone, for fear, as they told Pilate, that the disciples should steal the body away in the night. So they put seals over the joinings of the rock and door. The seals were made of paper that had the governor's stamp on them, and they would be torn if any one rolled the stone away. It was a death penalty for any one to break this seal. So they thought they had made sure that no one should move the stone; and the soldiers were set to watch.

"Now, it is very fortunate for Christianity that all this was done, for it made sure that no one would dare to roll the stone away, for there was the seal they dared not break, and there were the soldiers to guard the tomb, with instructions to arrest or kill any one who should come to remove the stone or take away the body. All day long on the Sabbath day, and all that night, these Roman soldiers stood guard over the tomb of Jesus. Next Sunday I will tell you the most wonderful thing that ever happened in the world."

QUESTIONS.

Who asked for our Lord's body? How was it made sure that our Lord was dead? What was done to the robbers? Where did Nicodemus and Joseph take the body? To whom did the cave belong? Who were there too? How did they wrap the body? What did they put with it? Why did they not do any more? When did the Sabbath begin? How did Joseph close up the cave? Who watched outside? Who sent the soldiers? Why was this fortunate for Christian history?



INTERIOR OF THE GREEK CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.

Fiftieth Sunday.

The Resurrection of Jesus.

"Now is Christ risen from the dead."—1 Cor. xv: 20.
"Peace be unto you."—Luke xxiv: 36.

ROMAN GUARDS.

"AUNTIE, you said you would tell us the most wonderful thing that ever happened in the world this Sunday," said Willie.

"I know what it was," said little Anna; "Clara told me."

"What?" asked Aunt Charlotte.

"Jesus got up from the grave Himself," responded the child with a look of delight. "The old mean men and all the soldiers could not help it."

"Right, my darling," began Aunt Charlotte. "The good women of whom I told you waited all the Sabbath day in sorrow, for they wanted to put the spices on His body. All this time our Lord Jesus lay in His grave. But in the night there was a great earthquake, and an angel came from heaven, and rolled away the stone from

the door of the cave, and sat upon it; and for fear of him the 'keepers did shake, and were as dead men.' And the Lord Jesus rose up and cast aside the linen clothes, and came out of the grave, and He is alive now and will be forever more. That was the wonderful thing I had to tell you. He had raised others from the dead. Now He raised Himself from the dead, that all men might believe in Him.

ANCIENT OLIVE-PRESS.

"Very early in the morning Mary Magdalene and the other women who wanted to embalm the body of Jesus as soon as the Sabbath was past, came with the sweet spices they had prepared. They wondered who would roll away the stone for them, and they thought perhaps the soldiers would drive them away, but they determined to go to the grave anyhow, and see what could be done. Their hearts leaped with joy when they came nearer and saw that the stone was taken away; but when they went in, they saw

that the body of the Lord was gone. They feared at first that some one had taken it away; but behold! two men stood by them in shining garments, who said, 'Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.'

"And as the women went in great wonder to tell the disciples they saw Jesus Himself, the same whom they had seen and touched, quite dead the day before yesterday, standing before them, speaking kindly to them. So they held Him by the feet, and worshiped Him. For never was there such wonderful joy and gladness in all the world.

The Entertaining Stranger.

"It was the first day of the week or the Jewish Monday, that our Lord rose from the dead, and we call that day the Lord's day, or Sunday, and have kept it holy ever since, instead of the seventh day or Sabbath of the Jews. But on that first day it seemed too wonderful. The apostles had never understood when their Lord spoke of dying and rising again; and though the women said they had seen Him, they were afraid to trust their word. and thought it a mistake.

"Later in the day, two of the disciples were walking to Emmaus, a little village near Jerusalem, when a stranger came and joined them. He asked why they were sad, and what they were talking of. They told Him it was of Jesus of Nazareth, who had been a great prophet, whom they had hoped would redeem Israel. They stated that He had been put to death two days before, yet

that some of the women said that they had seen a vision of angels which said that He was alive.

"Then the stranger began to show them, as they had never seen before, that all the Old Testament meant that when the Christ came, the Seed of the woman, He was to suffer and to save the world before His kingdom and glory could begin; and their minds understood, for they were opened to see and know the Scripture, so that they were sure that Jesus was the Christ.

"So they came to Emmaus, and went into a house, and the stranger made as if He would have gone farther, but they pressed Him to come in. He sat down with them, and took bread and blessed and broke it; and then their eyes were opened, and they knew it was Jesus Himself! And as they knew Him, He vanished out of their sight. And they said to one another, 'Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way?'

The Wonderful Appearance in the Upper Room.

"In the evening, the ten apostles were all together in the upper room, with the doors close shut, for fear of the Jews. There were only ten, for Thomas was not there; the wretched Judas had hung himself in his grief and despair. The two disciples came back from Emmaus, and told how they had seen Jesus; and while they were telling about it, though the door was not opened they found Jesus Himself standing in the midst, and they heard His voice say, 'Peace be unto you.'

"They were afraid at first; but again He said, 'Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your

hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have.' Then He showed them that there were the marks of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear-wound in His side; so that it was His own real body that had come again from the dead.

"And while they could not believe for joy, and wondered, He said, 'Have ye here any meat?' And they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and a honeycomb; and He ate with them, to make them quite sure it was Himself.

"And He explained all to them, and showed them how He really is the Christ the Son of God; and told them that, as His Father had sent Him, so He would send them to teach all nations how He had died and risen again to save men from their sins."

"That is, sure enough, the most wonderful story of all, Auntie," said little Anna, as Aunt Charlotte paused. "I do love good Jesus; and I am so glad He came to life and got out of the grave."

"By and by," said Clara, with a sweet smile through eyes that almost swam with tears, "Jesus will raise us all from the dead, as He raised Himself. Will He not, Auntie?"

"Yes, my darling," said Aunt Charlotte. "Paul tells us that just as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, so shall those who trust in Him rise up to meet Him one day."

"Did Jesus die any more after He rose from the dead, Aunt?" asked Willie.

"No; He went in His body to heaven. I will tell you of it next Sunday."

QUESTIONS.

What happened all the night after the Sabbath? Who came down from heaven? What happened to the soldiers? Who were the first at the grave in the morning? What did they bring? Who stood by them? What did the angels say? Whom did they go to tell? Who met them? How did they show their joy? What day did our Lord rise? What is it called? Which day do we keep holy? Where were two disciples going? Who came and walked with them? What did He explain to them? How did they know Him at last? How did they lose sight of Him? Where were the ten met? Why were there only ten? Who stood in the midst? What did He say? What did He show? What did He eat before them? Why did He do this? Whom were they to tell about it?

TRAVELING ON CAMELS IN THE EAST.

Fifty-first Sunday.

Jesus Ascends to Heaven.

"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."—Acts i: 11.

ANCIENT TOMBS IN THE ROCK.

"YOU said you would tell us about Jesus going to heaven, Aunt," said Willie.

"Yes," responded Aunt Charlotte, "but before that I want to tell you of one or two more appearances which Jesus made to His apostles before He went away. You must know that after His resurrection our blessed Lord Jesus did not stay with His apostles as He did before His death and rising. They did not see Him after that first day for a whole week; and they could not make Thomas, who had not been there when he came, believe that it was true that any man could come again from the grave. Thomas said he should never believe that it was the Lord Himself, unless He could put

his fingers into the prints of the nails, and his hand into the wound in the side.

Doubting Thomas Convinced.

"The next Sunday evening, Thomas and the other ten were all in the upper room together, when Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to Thomas, 'Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing.'

"Then Thomas knew Him indeed, and could only say, 'My Lord and my God.'

"And the Lord answered, 'Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.' And that is the blessing for all of us, who have not lived when our blessed Lord was on earth. We have not seen Him, but we must believe in Him; and that faith is the beginning of all goodness."

"Did Jesus do any more wonderful things?" asked Willie. "It looks like there was no more reason for any one to doubt that He was the Son of God."

"Yes," said Aunt Charlotte. "I told you before how He made the disciples catch a great many fish on one occasion. Now I will tell you of—

Another Wonderful Draught of Fishes.

"Our Lord told His apostles to go into Galilee; and there some of them went out fishing on the lake, as they used to do; but they fished all night, and caught nothing.

In the dawn of morning they saw a man standing on the bank, and He said, 'Children, have ye any meat?' They said, 'No.' Then He said, 'Cast the net on the right side of the ship.' And directly the net was full of a hundred and fifty-three fishes, all large and good, and it did not break! Then John knew who it was, and said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' And Peter was so glad that he sprang out of the boat, and came hurrying through the water to His Master's feet.

"And Jesus said, 'Come and dine;' and the disciples found a fire ready lighted on the bank, with the broiled fish and bread; and they ate with Him again, and felt His care after their long, weary, hungry night.

"When they had eaten, the Lord said, 'Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these?'

"'Yea, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee,' Peter answered.

"'Feed My sheep,' our Lord said. Then again He asked, 'Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?' 'Yea, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee,' said Peter. 'Feed my lambs,' He said. And again He asked, 'Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?' Then Peter was grieved, and said, 'Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee.'

"And again Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.' Peter knew that our Lord is the Good Shepherd, and that His sheep and lambs are the people, and the children of His flock, the Church; and that He was to show his love for His Master by taking care of them."

"Aunt Charlotte, why did Jesus make Peter say he loved Him three times? Was not once enough?" asked Clara.

"Yes," responded her aunt; "but don't you remember Peter had denied Jesus three times on the day of His trial, and now Jesus made Peter confess his love three times. The best people, under fear or impulse, sometimes deny or dishonor the Lord, and then they should do as Peter did—make friends with Jesus by confessing their love, and going to work for Him again. That is the way to be happy."

Jesus' Parting Words and His Ascension.

"You haven't told us about Jesus going to heaven yet, Aunt," said Willie, who had been anxiously waiting.

"I am coming to that now," said Aunt Charlotte. "For forty days after He rose from the dead our Lord came in different ways, like those I have told you, to see and to teach His disciples. Once five hundred of them saw Him together; but He never came to the wicked, unbelieving Jews again.

"But when the feast of weeks was near, the disciples went back to keep it at Jerusalem. There our Lord came to them again, and He led the eleven apostles out with Him to the Mount of Olives. He taught them, and charged them much; and He gave them this great command, 'Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.' And then He bade them stay at Jerusalem until they should be endued with power from on high. And, Willie," said Aunt Char-

lotte, laying her hand on the boy's head and looking earnestly into his eyes, and speaking very slowly, "*while Jesus talked with them, He was parted from them, and went rising up into heaven, going higher and higher, till*

JESUS PREACHING

a cloud received Him out of their sight, and no one except Paul ever saw Jesus since.

"While they all still looked up after Him, two angels appeared and stood by them, and said, 'Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus,

which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.'

"And so it was that our blessed Lord Jesus ascended up to His throne in heaven again, after He had been born, and had lived, and died to save us."

"And Jesus is there in heaven now, watching over us, and laying all our prayers before His Father in heaven, and getting ready our home there for each of us," said Clara.

"Right, my darling," said Aunt Charlotte. "Jesus said, 'I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am there ye may be also,' and He promised to come again and receive all those who love Him to Himself, and make them His brothers and sisters in heaven."

"I'm so sorry Jesus had to go away," said little Anna. "Were not the disciples very lonesome, Auntie?"

"Yes, they *were* very lonely; but Jesus will not leave His followers long unhappy, and next Sunday I will tell you what He sent them to make them glad and joyous," replied Aunt Charlotte.

QUESTIONS.

Who had not seen Jesus? What could not Thomas believe? What did he say? Where were the apostles, and who appeared? What did our Lord say to Thomas? What did he answer? What did our Lord then say? Why had Thomas believed? Where did our Lord come to His disciples again? How did they know Him? Had he ever done anything like this before? What did He give them to eat? What question did He ask Peter three times? What had Peter once done three times? What did Peter answer now? What did our Lord three times bid him do? How long did our Lord stay on earth after His resurrection? Where did the disciples go? What was the great charge He gave them? In whose name were they to baptize? Who would always be with them? What happened while He was speaking? Who came to tell them where He was gone? When will He come again?

Fifty-second Sunday.

The Comforter Sent to Take Jesus' Place.

"I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another comforter, that He may abide with you forever."—John xiv: 16.

JESUS THE COMFORTER.

"YOU said, Aunt, that you would tell us how Jesus made the apostles happy after He left," suggested Willie, as they took their seats the last Sunday morning in the year.

"Yes," said Aunt Charlotte. "As I told you, Jesus does not leave His followers without comfort. Our Lord had told the apostles that though He was going to heaven, He would send them another comforter, who would be with them forever, and in whom He Himself should be present with them—even God the

Holy Ghost, who is One with God the Father and God the Son.

"Ten days after He had ascended up to heaven, on the great day of the feast of weeks, as the disciples were together in one place at Jerusalem, where Jesus had told them to go and wait, they heard a sound like the noise of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house; and there came flames like tongues divided in the midst, and sat on the head of each disciple—not burning, but shining. And wonderful knowledge came to all of them—they understood things they could not understand before; and they could speak all sorts of different languages, without ever having learnt them. These wonders were to show them that God the Holy Ghost had come down from heaven to be with them, and to dwell in them, and help them, and make them strong for ever and ever. And that is why these apostles were able to go out and suffer ill-treatment and work wonders, and even die for Jesus' sake."

"Did anybody but the apostles have the Comforter, Aunt?" asked Willie, "and is He in the world now?"

"Yes, dear; the Lord God the Holy Ghost goes on coming and being with us still. He does not show us when He comes now, because it is more blessed to believe than to see; but we know He does come to each of us, when we are faithful in God's service, to help us and make us good."

"Does He make people speak different languages now, ever, Aunt?" again asked Willie.

"No, my boy. The reason He made the apostles able to speak all those languages was that they were to go and teach all the nations the Gospel—that is to say, the

good news that Christ was come, and had died for the sins of every one, and risen again. They did go and teach; and all who chose to believe and belong to Christ's kingdom were baptized. The apostles had to go at once, and this power to speak different languages was a miracle to show them that every people of every language must have the Gospel. Nowadays missionaries have time to learn the languages of people to whom they mean to go, that they may preach to them. What I want to teach you, my children, is that every one who truly loves Jesus and serves Him feels the presence of the Holy Ghost in his heart to help him to be good, and to keep God's holy law, the Ten Commandments, that He gave on Mount Sinai. More and more of that good help of the Holy Spirit is given to every one who comes, as

GOD IS LOVE.

our Lord bade, to do the work He gave His followers to do, and to serve and love Him with the whole heart. We belong to those nations that the apostles were commanded to teach and baptize and bring into the fold; and we belong to Jesus Christ just as much as His own first disciples did. We are called Christians, after His name; and all the time we live here, He takes care of us; and if we serve Him, He takes our souls to be with Him in heaven, when death parts them from our bodies.

"This is the last Sunday in the year, and I want you to have one more talk with me to-night, and that will close our year's Sunday conversations. What shall it be about?"

Clara was thoughtful, and Aunt Charlotte said, "Come, my dear; I think you have a subject to suggest. What is it?"

"Auntie," said Clara, with big tears in her beautiful eyes, to show how deeply she felt, "I know after this Sunday you are going away, and we are all so sorry; but I am sure you will come again. You told us Jesus would come to earth again. Suppose you tell us some more about that to-night?"

"Happy thought!" said Aunt Charlotte, hugging the dear girl to her bosom. "So I will, my dear. And now we will not have the questions this time." The fact was, Clara's words had made good, loving Aunt Charlotte almost too near weeping to be able to ask the questions.

Jesus is Coming Again.

"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth."—2 Peter iii: 13.

It was a thoughtful little party that gathered around the glowing fire after supper this last night in the year. No one of the children asked a question, for they all

knew what the subject was to be, but every one tried to get just as close as possible to dear, *good*, *sweet Aunt Charlotte*. Little Anna climbed up on her lap and laid her curly head close up against Aunt Charlotte's bosom, and pressed it so tight in her loving caress that she could hear the heart-beats of her loving aunt, for, really, Aunt Charlotte felt so sad at the thought of this last talk with her darlings about Jesus that her heart beat very hard, though her face was so calm and sweet.

The good woman took her Bible and read the third chapter of second Peter, and then without comment she said, in a sad, mellow voice, with one arm around little Anna and the other hand on Willie's head:

"My children, the Lord Jesus Christ is coming again. We do not know when it will be; but, some time or other, He will send His angel to blow a trumpet; and all that are in their graves shall hear His voice, and their souls will come back to their bodies; and we shall all be alive again; and if we have been good and holy, we shall be caught up to meet the Lord Jesus in the air. For then He will come, with all His holy angels, and will sit on a great white throne; and all that have ever lived will be called before Him, and judged for all the things they have done, and the words they have said. And then those that have gone on doing wrong, and never being sorry, and never caring for the Lord Jesus, but have made Satan their master, will be given to Satan, to be in misery forever.

"But those who have tried to do their best, and held fast to our Lord Jesus, and prayed Him to wash them clean in His blood, will be taken home for His sake. And they will have the happiest and most blessed home that

ever can be in heaven. There will be all brightness, and no more pain, nor grief, nor sorrow; and the Lord shall wipe off all tears from all eyes; and there shall be gladness and joy forever and ever.

"The old earth will be gone; but there will be new heavens, and a new earth, all beautiful, with nothing that will hurt or spoil or fade, but all lovely and peaceful.

"And then there will be the great joy of singing the praise of God, who made us, and saved us, and helps us to be good, forever and ever."

Aunt Charlotte's last beautiful story was ended. Little Anna's face was buried in her loved aunt's bosom, and she was sweetly weeping; she knew not why, for she was very, very happy. Clara stood, thoughtful, with a bright countenance, looking her friend and teacher full in the face. Willie broke the silence:

"Well, dear Aunt Charlotte, you may have thought I didn't like these talks and stories like sister and little Anna, by my rough ways sometimes, for I know I was not particular enough when I spoke; but I have loved them, and I love you for teaching us so much, and I shall try hard to live a Christian life, and I mean to read every word of the Bible through myself next year; and then, at the end of the year, I'll write and tell you some other things I've learned."

Aunt Charlotte pressed her lips to the boy's forehead, too full of tears to speak.

"Auntie," said Clara, "I was just thinking it might be very hard to part with you on New Year's Day, when you start back home in the East, for we might never see you again; but I feel that, if some of us do die before we

meet, we will all be sure to see each other again when we rise up to meet Jesus when He comes. That's the reason I do not feel so sad at parting with you."

"And then," said little Anna, with a sunny laugh through her sparkling tears, as she threw her arms around Aunt Charlotte's neck, "we will all just stay with Jesus forever, and I will not let you, precious Auntie, go away from us; but you shall tell us pretty stories *every day* and EVERY DAY. Shan't she, brother?"

And so Aunt Charlotte was paid a thousand times over, on this last night, for all the stories and lessons of the year.